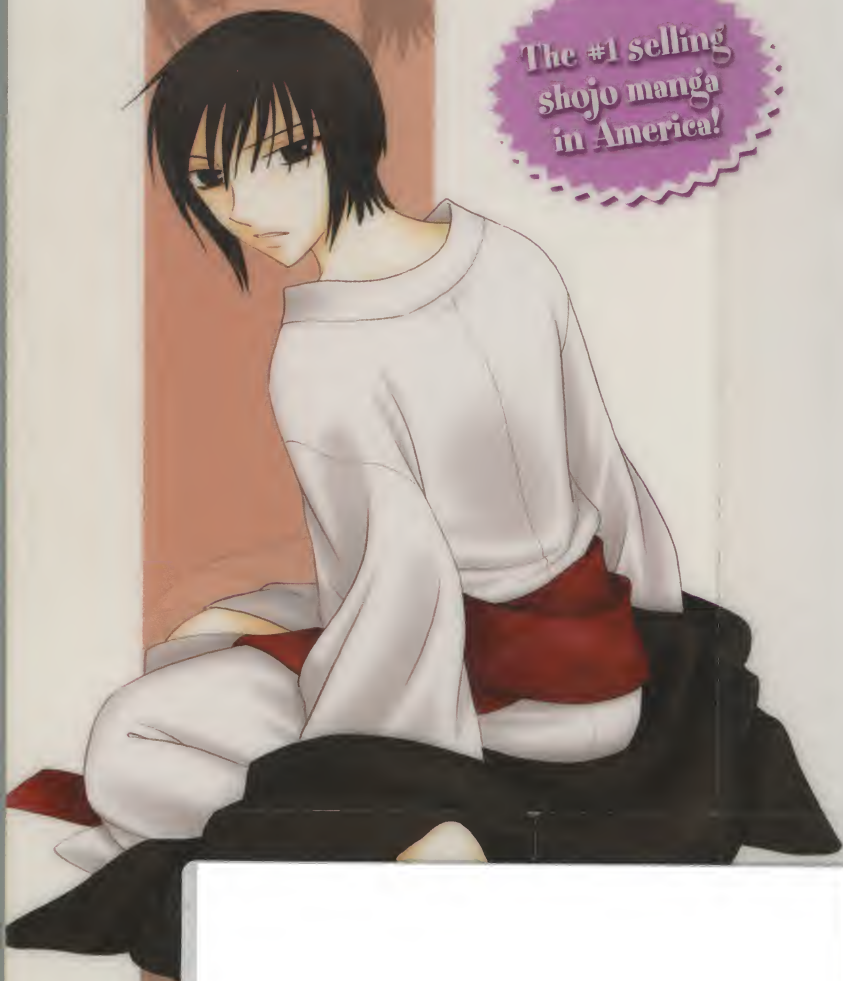


# Fruits Basket

TM

The #1 selling  
shojo manga  
in America!

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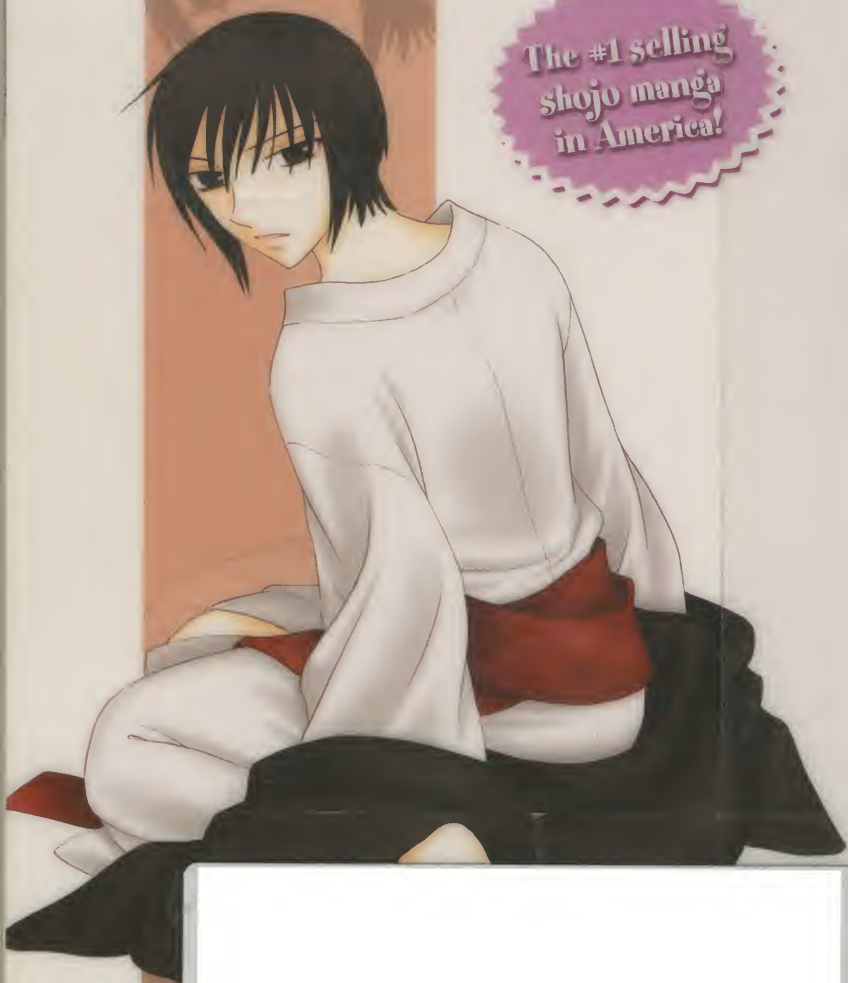
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Natsuki Takaya

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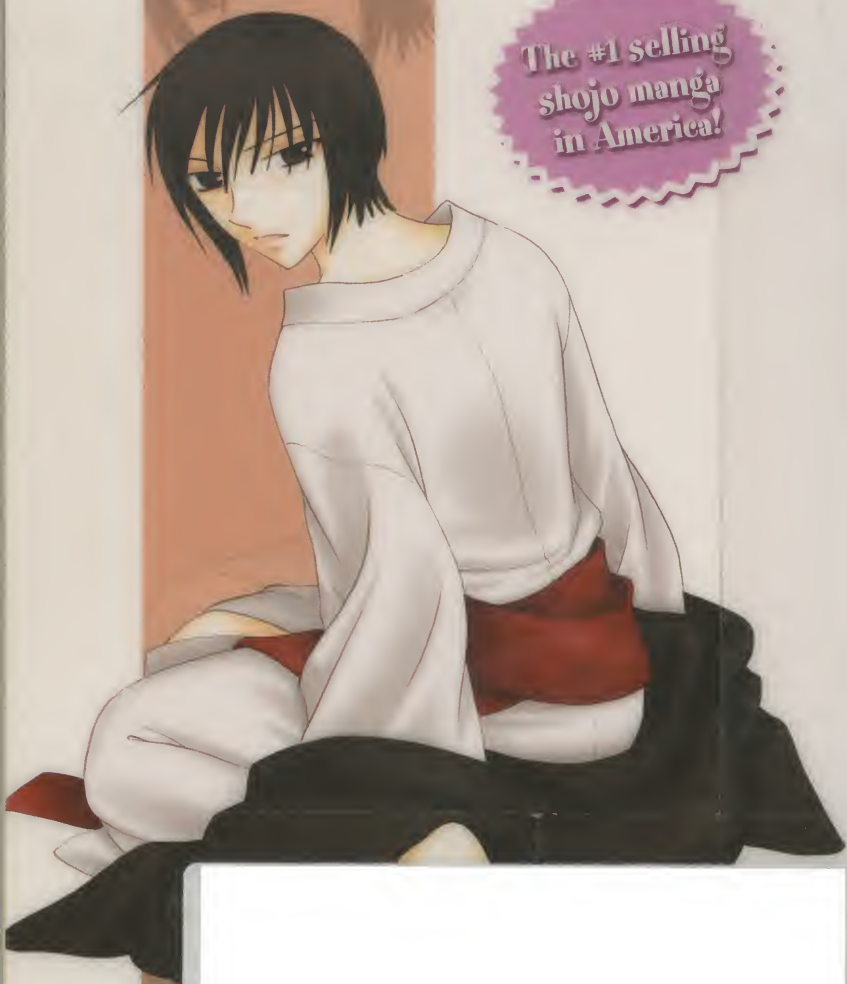
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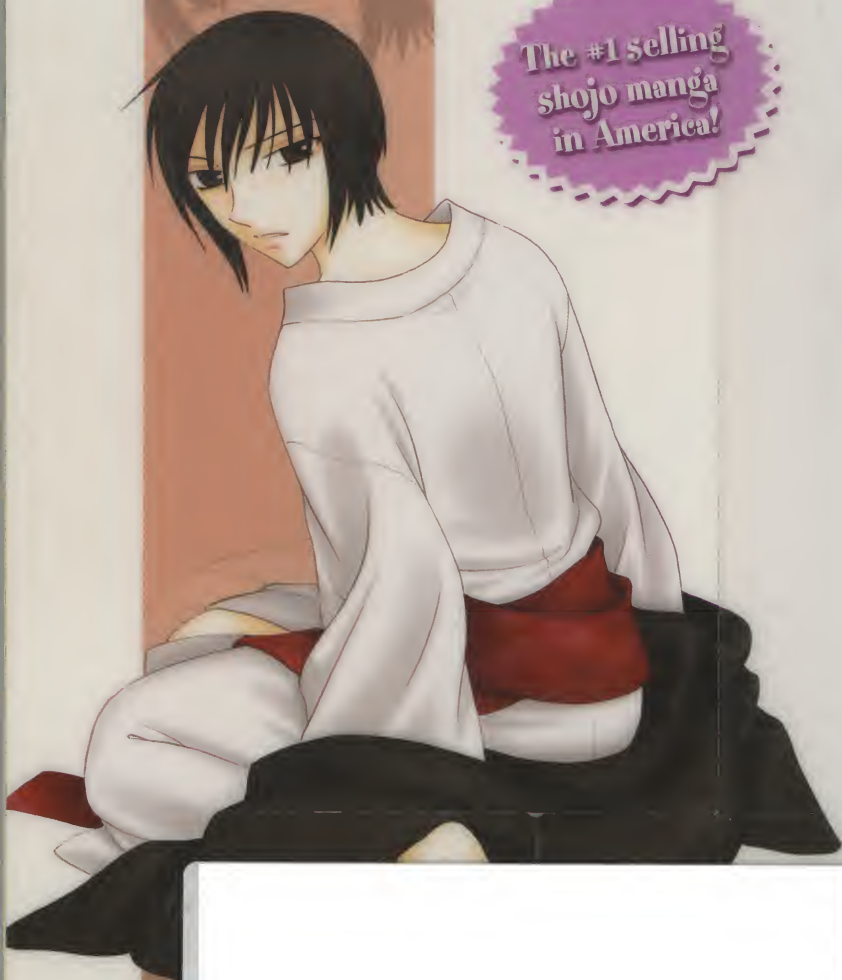
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# Fruits Basket

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The #1 selling  
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Yuki's past finally is revealed! But is it all too much to bear? His sickness takes a turn for the worse, and after Akito reminds Yuki how loathed he is, his will to live might finally be drained... Meanwhile, as Tohru is getting ready to perform in *Cinderella*, the class decides that they have to rewrite the play. But no amount of revision will prevent Tohru from improvising her loving feelings for a certain someone. Just who is the mystery man?

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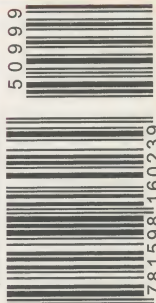








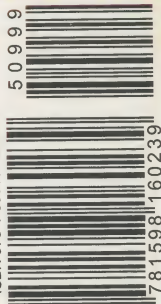
ISBN 978-1-59816-023-9



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# Fruits Basket™

Volume 15



Natsuki Takaya

# STORY SO FAR...

Hello, I'm Tohru Honda and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent, when the Sohma family took me in. I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, they change into their Zodiac animal!



# Fruits Basket™

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# Fruits Basket Characters

## Mabudachi Trio



### Shigure Sohma, the Dog

Enigmatic, mischievous and a little perverted. A popular novelist.



### Tohru Honda

The ever-optimistic hero of our story. An orphan, she now lives in Shigure's house, along with Yuki and Kyo, and is the only person outside of the family who knows the Sohma family's curse.

### Hatori Sohma, the Dragon

Family doctor to the Sohmas. Only thing he can't cure is his broken heart.



### Yuki Sohma, the Rat

Soft-spoken. Self-esteem issues. At school he's called "Prince Yuki."



### Ayame Sohma, the Snake

Yuki's older brother. A proud and playful drama queen...er, king. Runs a costume shop.



### Kyo Sohma, the Cat

The Cat who was left out of the Zodiac. Hates Yuki, leeks and miso. But mostly Yuki.

### Saki Hanajima

"Hana-chan." Can sense people's "waves." Goth demeanor scares her classmates.

### Arisa Uotani

"Uo-chan." A tough-talking "Yankee" who looks out for her friends.



### Tohru's Best Friends

### Kagura Sohma, the Boar

Bashful, yet headstrong. Determined to marry Kyo, even if it kills him.



# Fruits Basket Characters

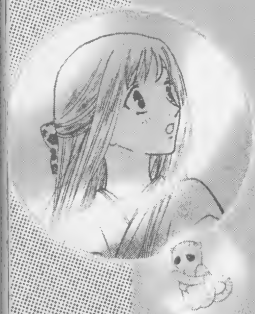
## Isuzu "Rin" Sohma, the Horse

She was once in a relationship with Hatsuharu (Haru)...and Tohru leaves her rather cold. Rin is full of pride, and she can't stand the amount of deference the other Sohma family members give Akito.



## Ritsu Sohma, the Monkey

This shy kimono-wearing member of the Sohma family is gorgeous. But this "she" is really a he!! Crossdressing calms his nerves.



## Akito Sohma

The head of the Sohma clan. A dark figure of many secrets. Treated with fear and reverence.



## Hiro Sohma, the Ram (or sheep)

This caustic tyke is skilled at throwing verbal barbs, but he has a soft spot for Kisa.

## Momiji Sohma, the Rabbit

Half-German. He's older than he looks. His mother rejected him because of the Sohma curse. His little sister, Momo, has been kept from him most of her life.

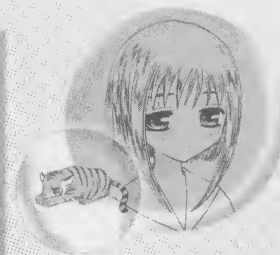


## Hatsuharu Sohma, the Ox

The nicest of guys, except when he goes "Black." Then you'd better watch out. He was once in a relationship with Rin.

## Kisa Sohma, the Tiger

Kisa became shy and self-conscious due to constant teasing by her classmates. Yuki, who has similar insecurities, feels particularly close to Kisa.

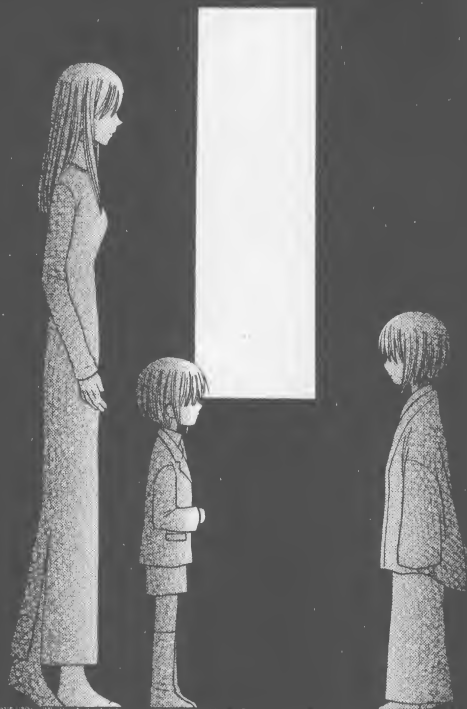




THOSE  
THINGS...  
AND  
NOTHING  
ELSE.

...MY WORLD  
CONSISTED OF  
AKITO, MY MOTHER,  
AND WHATEVER  
SCENERY I COULD  
SEE BEYOND THE  
SLIDING DOOR.

WHEN I WAS  
VERY, VERY  
SMALL...

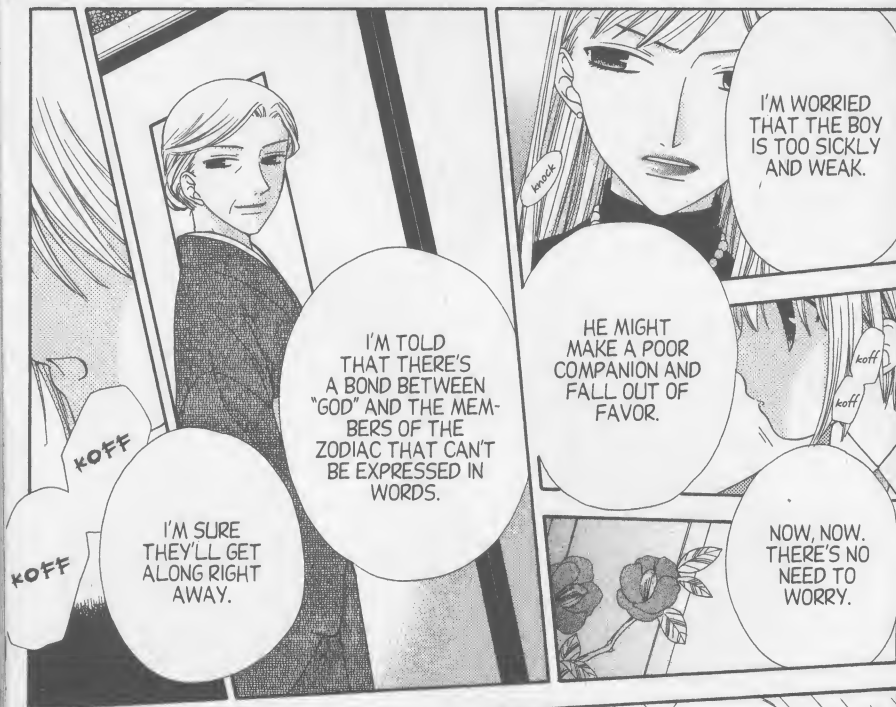


Filler  
Sketch



Woo!  
AWESOME!  
VOLUME 15'S OUT!  
NOW I GET TO HEAR  
MORE OF YUN-YUN'S  
STORY! LET THE  
SOMBER TALE BEGIN!

PLEASE  
DON'T CALL  
MY LIFE  
SOMBER.



koff  
koff

I'M TOLD  
THAT THERE'S  
A BOND BETWEEN  
"GOD" AND THE MEM-  
BERS OF THE  
ZODIAC THAT CAN'T  
BE EXPRESSED IN  
WORDS.

I'M SURE  
THEY'LL GET  
ALONG RIGHT  
AWAY.

I'M WORRIED  
THAT THE BOY  
IS TOO SICKLY  
AND WEAK.

HE MIGHT  
MAKE A POOR  
COMPANION AND  
FALL OUT OF  
FAVOR.

NOW, NOW.  
THERE'S NO  
NEED TO  
WORRY.



AKITO-SAN.  
I'VE BROUGHT  
HIM FOR YOU.



YUKI...

DON'T  
COUGH IN  
FRONT OF  
THE HEAD  
OF THE  
FAMILY.



AKITO-SAN GOES  
WITHOUT SAYING,  
BUT I'M CERTAIN THE  
DECEASED FORMER  
HEAD OF THE FAMILY  
IS ALSO PLEASED.

THE BIRTH  
OF A CHILD  
POSSESSED BY  
THE RAT.

IT'S A CAUSE  
FOR GREAT  
CELEBRATION  
IN THE SOHMA  
FAMILY, YOU  
KNOW.

# Chapter 84

## Fruits Basket

LOVED...

...AND  
HATED.

THE  
OLDER ONES  
POSSESSED BY  
SPIRITS CRIED  
BEFORE HIM  
AS WELL.

I  
WANTED  
TO SEE  
HIM.

I DIDN'T  
WANT  
TO SEE  
HIM.

WHAT  
ELSE  
COULD  
ONE CALL  
IT BUT A  
"BOND"?

LIKE AN  
UNBREAKABLE  
KARMIC LINK.

I WANT  
TO HOLD  
HIM  
CLOSE...

...AND  
YET RUN  
AWAY.

IT'S ALL  
RIGHT.



IN THE  
UNKNOWN  
DEPTHS OF  
MY HEART,  
SOMETHING  
CRIED OUT.

...IT  
WASN'T  
UP TO  
ME.

STOP  
THAT--  
IT'S  
RUDE!

BUT...

WH-WHY  
ARE YOU  
CRYING,  
YUKI?

WHAT



AGH,  
SHUT  
UP!

WOULD  
YOU QUIT  
COUGHING?!  
IT'S GET-  
TING ON MY  
NERVES!

I WAS  
STILL  
VERY  
YOUNG.

I TENDED  
TO BELIEVE  
WHAT I WAS  
TOLD.



crash

COME  
TO THINK  
OF IT...

AKITO  
HAD A BAD  
TEMPER...

HE  
WOULD  
EVEN  
CRY.

IF I'M  
REMEMBER-  
ING RIGHT.



...BUT I  
THINK  
IT WAS  
DIFFERENT  
FROM HOW  
HE IS NOW.



STILL...



YOU  
KNOW  
SOME-  
THING?

THE  
RAT IS THE  
GREATEST  
MEMBER OF  
THE ZODIAC.



IT'S  
THE ONE  
CLOSEST  
TO GOD.

THAT MEANS  
YOU'RE THE  
ONE CLOSEST  
TO ME...



...AND  
YOU'RE  
SPECIAL  
LIKE ME,  
TOO.



AS AKITO'S  
PLAYMATE,  
I SPENT ALL  
MY DAYS  
INDOORS.

WE  
MEET AT  
LAST.

HELLO...

MY  
EARLIEST  
MEMORIES  
ARE ALL  
WITH AKITO.



...MY  
VENGEFUL  
LITTLE  
YUKI.





NO...

AKITO...?

AND YOU, YUKI.

YOU'RE PITCH BLACK, TOO.

NO, WE CAN'T BE THE SAME.

THAT WOULD MAKE ME UNNECESSARY.

AKITO--

BUT I'M CHOSEN. I'M NEEDED!

splash

I'M HERE BECAUSE I HAVE TO BE!

I'M NOT THE SAME AS YOU!

WE HAVE TO BE THE SAME TO BE FAIR, RIGHT?

WE'RE ALWAYS TOGETHER, SO YOU HAVE TO BE BLACK, TOO.



ONE DAY...

AKITO LOST IT.

YOU SEE THIS?

MY WORLD IS A BLACK PLACE, YUKI.

I HAVE TO MAKE MY ROOM MATCH.

SOME-THING WAS SAD, MAYBE? OR FRIGHT-ENING?

IT HAP-PENED SO SUD-DENLY.



SHIGURE WAS ROCKING HIM TO SLEEP.

I SAW HIM, WITH SHIGURE A FEW TIMES.



HOW  
LONG  
WAS IT...

...THAT MY  
MOTHER  
DIDN'T  
COME?

"YOU'VE BEEN  
ABANDONED."

AFTER  
THAT...

...I  
REALIZED  
SOME-  
THING.

YOU  
NEED  
ME.

IF I  
DIDN'T  
CARE  
ABOUT  
YOU...

...THERE'D BE  
NO REASON  
FOR YOU TO  
BE ALIVE!

THAT'S  
AS GOOD  
AS GETTING  
ABANDONED!

HA  
HA  
HA!

YOUR  
MOTHER  
GAVE YOU  
TO ME.

YOU'RE  
JUST MY  
TOY.

EVERYONE  
HATES  
THE RAT,  
STUPID!

NO-  
BODY  
CARES!

NOBODY  
CARES  
ABOUT  
YOU!

DON'T  
YOU GET  
IT?!

"SOON."

"L/M..."

...WHEN  
CAN I GO  
HOME?!"

## Fruits Basket 15

Nice to meet you!  
I'm Takaya, and this  
is Volume 15.

...That's right,  
folks--we're all the  
way to Volume 15.

The cover is Akito this  
time around. I think  
various aspects of  
Akito's background--  
or true nature,  
maybe? circumstanc-  
es, perhaps?--have  
been revealed by now  
in Hana to Yume  
magazine. (Finally.)

For those of you who  
only read this series  
in book format, you  
still have a little while  
before you can read  
all that--but I won't  
give any spoilers in  
these columns, so  
not to worry. Having  
Akito on the cover of  
the book that talks  
about Yuki's past...  
it's another aftereffect  
of their unbreakable  
bond, I guess. Sorry,  
Yun-chan. I didn't do  
that on purpose.

Anyway, please enjoy  
Volume 15.



SOME-  
ONE AS  
ROTTEN  
AS YOU...

IT'S ALL  
YOUR  
FAULT,  
RAT!

EVERY-  
THING'S  
YOUR  
FAULT!

IT'S ALL  
BECAUSE  
YOU  
EXIST!

...OUGHTA  
DO US ALL  
A FAVOR  
AND JUST  
DISAPPEAR!

I'LL  
NEVER...

...FORGIVE  
YOU.

DO YOU  
HEAR  
ME?

I'LL  
NEVER  
FORGIVE  
YOU!

OH.

UM,  
YES.

.....

IT'S  
SO...  
...PRETTY.

YOU'RE  
THE RAT,  
HUH?

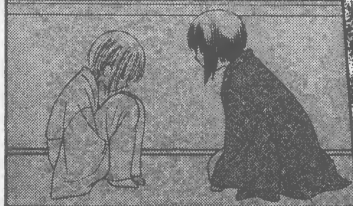
YOU.

THAT  
PRETTY  
ORANGE.

UM...



DON'T MISUNDER-  
STAND.



JUST LIKE  
YOUR LIFE,  
YUKI.

THIS  
WORLD IS  
BLACK.



YOU'LL  
LIVE ON A  
PITCH-BLACK  
PATH.

THERE  
ARE NO POS-  
SIBILITIES, NO  
HOPES....

*NOBODY  
CARES  
ABOUT  
YOU!*



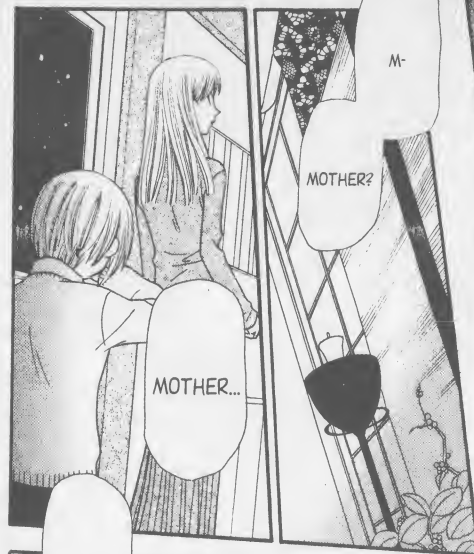
WHERE ON  
EARTH HAVE  
YOU BEEN?!

HURRY  
UP AND GO  
BACK TO THE  
HEAD OF THE  
FAMILY!



I REFUSE TO  
BE HUMILI-  
ATED OVER  
SOMETHING  
SO INSIGNIFI-  
CANT!

"EVERYONE  
HATES THE  
RAT!"



MOTHER?

MOTHER...



SLAP



.....  
!



"THE  
RAT."

I WAS  
AFRAID.

DID YOU  
HEAR ABOUT  
YUKI-SAN'S  
PARENTS?

THEY'RE  
LIVING IT UP,  
APPARENTLY.

IT'S  
THE SPECIAL  
STATUS OF THE  
RAT. THEY MAY  
BE PARENTS  
OF ZODIAC  
CHILDREN...

...BUT THEIR  
YOUNGEST SON'S  
POSSESSION IS  
WHAT'S LAND-  
ING THEM THEIR  
MONEY AND  
POSITIONS.

I DIDN'T  
WANT  
THEM TO  
LOOK AT  
ME...

...WITH  
EYES OF  
INDIFFER-  
ENCE.

OR  
EYES OF  
HATE.

HE MADE  
ME LISTEN  
TO THOSE  
TERRIBLE  
WORDS  
EVERY DAY.

HIS  
PITCH-  
BLACK  
WORDS.

AKITO  
CARVED  
THEM  
INTO  
ME.

BEFORE I  
KNEW IT...

IT WAS  
EVERY  
DAY.

SO DON'T  
MISUNDER-  
STAND...

...AND THINK  
THAT ONE  
DAY YOU'LL  
BE SAVED.

NO ONE  
CARES. NO  
ONE NEEDS  
YOU. YOU'RE  
A BORING  
HUMAN  
BEING.

WHY  
WOULDN'T  
THEY?

OF  
COURSE.

...THEY  
STARTED  
TO SEEM  
LIKE THE  
TRUTH.

...EVEN IF  
I WANTED TO  
BE SAVED...

EVEN IF  
I REACHED  
OUT MY  
HAND...

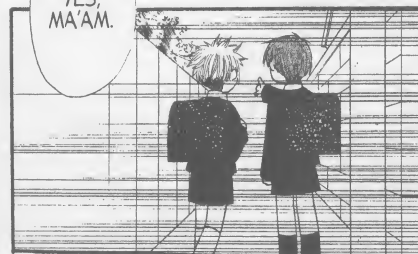




OH--AND  
PLEASE  
DROP ME OFF  
BEFORE YOU  
TAKE HIM TO  
SCHOOL.

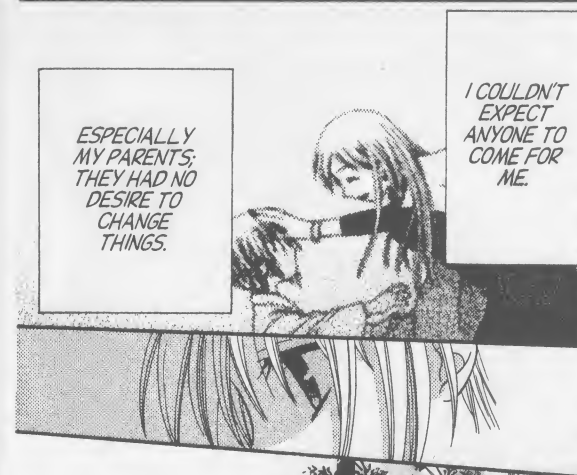
I'LL BE  
COMING  
HOME  
LATE.

YES,  
MA'AM.



I WONDER. I'M  
AFRAID THIS  
BOY DOESN'T  
THINK FOR  
HIMSELF.

IT'S A SHAME,  
CONSIDERING I  
ENROLLED HIM IN  
A BETTER SCHOOL  
THAN THE OTHER  
ZODIAC CHILDREN.



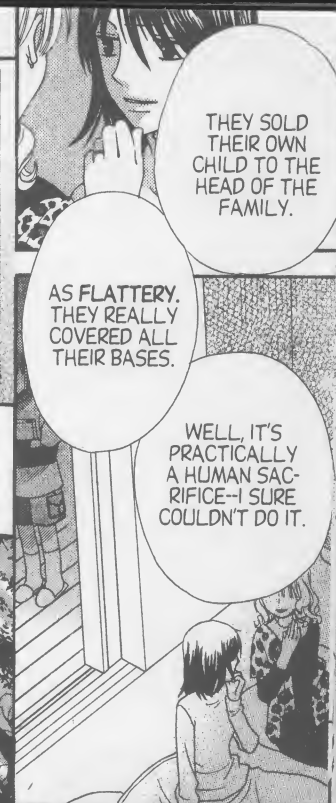
ESPECIALLY  
MY PARENTS;  
THEY HAD NO  
DESIRE TO  
CHANGE  
THINGS.

I COULDN'T  
EXPECT  
ANYONE TO  
COME FOR  
ME.



INSIDE THE  
SOHMA  
FAMILY...

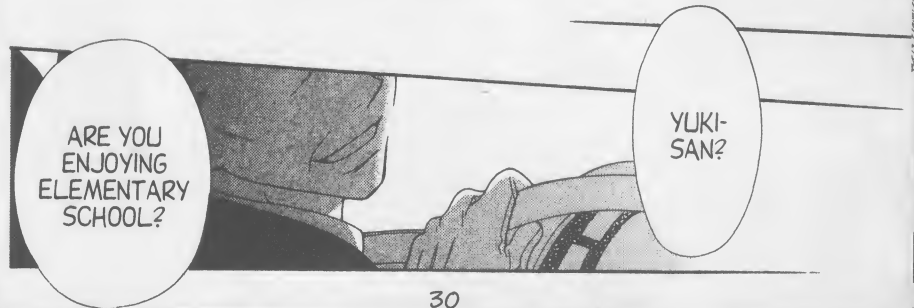
...MY  
PARENTS  
WERE  
"WINNERS."



THEY SOLD  
THEIR OWN  
CHILD TO THE  
HEAD OF THE  
FAMILY.

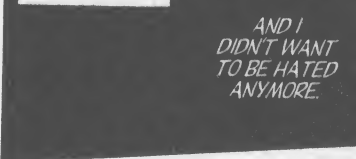
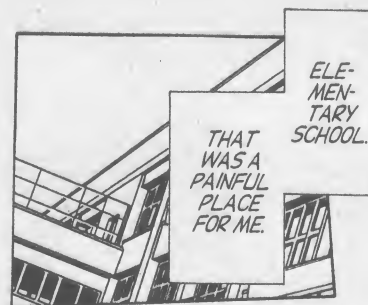
AS FLATTERY.  
THEY REALLY  
COVERED ALL  
THEIR BASES.

WELL, IT'S  
PRACTICALLY  
A HUMAN SAC-  
RIFICE--I SURE  
COULDN'T DO IT.



ARE YOU  
ENJOYING  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL?

YUKI-  
SAN?





THE  
CONCEPT IS  
DISGUSTING  
TO NORMAL  
PEOPLE; IT'LL  
ONLY DRIVE  
THEM AWAY.

THEY'LL  
LEAVE  
YOU, YUKI.



...  
WELL  
?

DIDN'T  
I TELL  
YOU?



YOU'RE  
MISUNDER-  
STANDING  
AGAIN.



YOU'RE  
A BOY WHO  
TURNS INTO  
A RAT.

OF COURSE  
IT'S WEIRD.



THE  
INCIDENT  
WAS A  
SCANDAL.

IN THE  
END...



...THE  
MEMORIES  
OF MY FRIENDS  
WERE ALL  
SUPPRESSED.



IT WAS  
MY VERY  
FIRST  
TIME.

I WAS  
HAPPY.

I DIDN'T  
KNOW WHAT  
TO DO WITH  
MYSELF.  
I WAS SO  
HAPPY.

I GOT  
CARRIED  
AWAY.

I COM-  
PLETELY  
FORGOT...

I GOT  
CARRIED  
AWAY.

THERE  
WERE EVEN  
SOHMA  
CHILDREN  
AMONG  
MY NEW  
FRIENDS.

WE  
STARTED  
TALKING  
ABOUT  
EXPLORING  
THE "INSIDE"  
TOGETHER.

...TO BE  
CAREFUL  
WITH  
GIRLS.

EVERYONE  
CAME IN  
THROUGH  
THE SECRET  
ENTRANCE.





PLEASE!

D-DON'T ERASE THEM!

PLEASE...



"THEY'LL LEAVE YOU!"



LOVING  
PARENTS...



...A HOME THAT  
NO ONE WOULD  
EVER WANT TO  
LEAVE.



A HAPPY  
HOME.

A WARM  
PLACE...

...WITH  
EVERYONE  
SMILING  
AT ME.



THERE WAS  
SOMETHING I  
WANTED...



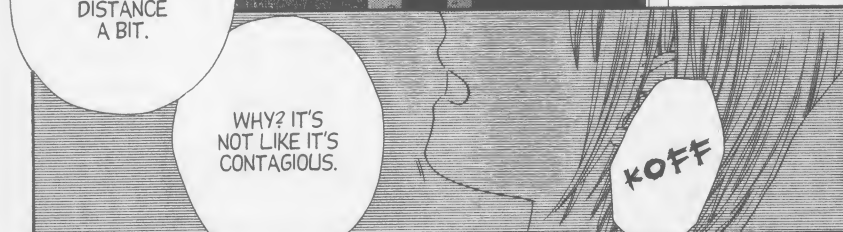
stomp  
stomp  
stomp

...OH.

UM,  
HERE.



## Chapter 85



**THAT  
WAS ALL  
I WANTED.**

**THAT,  
AND  
NOTHING  
ELSE.**





IT WAS  
EITHER  
MY BODY...

...OR MY  
HEART.



...YUKI?

ARE YOU  
GOING TO  
DIE...



ARE  
YOU?

WELL?



koff



I'M NOT  
SURE  
WHAT  
WAS  
WEAKEN-  
ING.

...YOU'RE  
SO  
BORING.

"MAYBE IF  
HE'D BEEN  
BORN AS  
THE RAT..."

SOMETHING  
LIKE, "BEING  
WITH HIM  
BECAME TOO  
PAINFUL."

...THINGS  
WOULD'VE  
BEEN A LITTLE  
HAPPIER."  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT.

ALL THE  
TALK IS  
THAT SHE  
DIED IN AN  
ACCIDENT...

...BUT  
IT WAS  
SUICIDE,  
TRUST  
ME.

HE HAS A  
GRUDGE  
AGAINST  
YOU, YUKI.

YOU KNOW  
WHAT HE  
SAID AT THE  
FUNERAL?

APPARENTLY  
SHE LEFT A  
WILL--IF YOU  
CAN CALL IT  
THAT.

"I'LL KILL  
YUKI AND THEN  
DIE MYSELF."

HE  
YELLED  
THAT AT  
HIS OWN  
FATHER.

I  
THOUGHT  
THEY  
MIGHT  
COME TO  
SEE HIM.

I  
HAVEN'T  
SEEN  
THEM.

ARE HIS  
PARENTS  
HERE?

IT WAS  
A FEW  
YEARS  
AGO.

DID YOU  
HEAR?

THE  
MOTHER  
OF KYO,  
THE CAT.

SHE  
KILLED  
HERSELF.

OF COURSE  
THEY WON'T--  
THE TWO OF  
THEM ARE ON  
A TRIP.

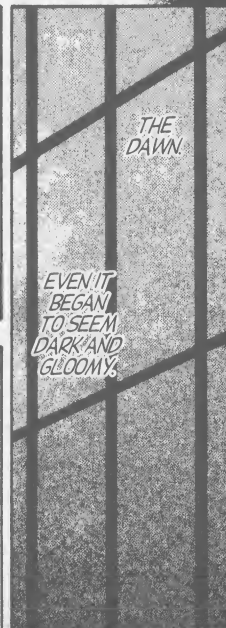
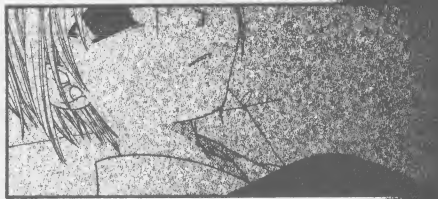
ARE  
THEY?

THEN  
WHAT  
ABOUT  
AYAME-  
SAN?

HE JUST  
BRUSHED  
ME OFF.

BUT...  
THAT'S  
HIS BABY  
BROTHER!





EVEN IT  
BEGAN  
TO SEEM  
DARK AND  
GLOOMY.



"SOMEONE  
AS ROTTEN  
AS YOU..

...OUGHTA  
DO US ALL  
A FAVOR!"



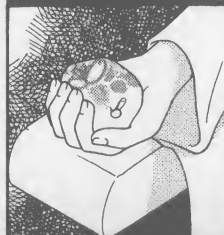
OH,  
RIGHT.

"IT'S ALL  
BECAUSE YOU  
EXIST!"

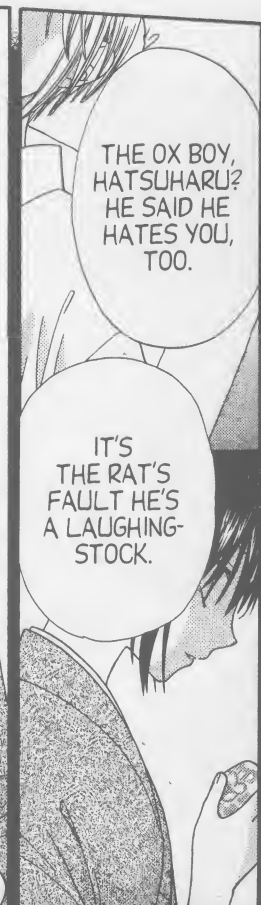


"IT'S ALL  
YOUR  
FAULT,  
RAT!"

"EVERYTHING'S  
YOUR FAULT!"



YOU SURE  
ARE HATED,  
YUKI.



IT'S  
THE RAT'S  
FAULT HE'S  
A LAUGHING-  
STOCK.

IF MY DARK,  
USELESS WORLD  
IS SUCH A HATED  
PLACE, THEN THERE  
REALLY IS NO POINT  
TO MY EXISTENCE.

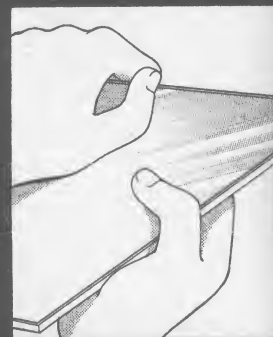
"WELL?"



IT  
DOESN'T  
SUIT ME.



MAYBE  
DISAPPEAR-  
ING...



...IS THE  
FIRST  
TRULY  
USEFUL  
THING I  
CAN DO.



I HAVE  
TO GIVE  
IT BACK.

I  
JUST...



I DOUBT  
HE'LL  
TAKE IT.



I DON'T  
KNOW  
ANYTHING.

I DON'T  
KNOW HIS  
SADNESS.



IF I REALLY  
DID DISAPPEAR  
FROM THIS  
WORLD...

...WOULD  
EVEN A LITTLE  
OF HIS SADNESS  
DISAPPEAR?

open

close



SOME-  
THING  
BURST  
THEN.



MAYBE  
I WANTED  
TO HURT  
MYSELF.

OR  
MAYBE  
I WANTED  
TO FEEL  
BETTER.

I JUST  
WANTED  
TO MOVE,  
TO RUN.

SOMETHING  
DEEP INSIDE  
MY HEART.

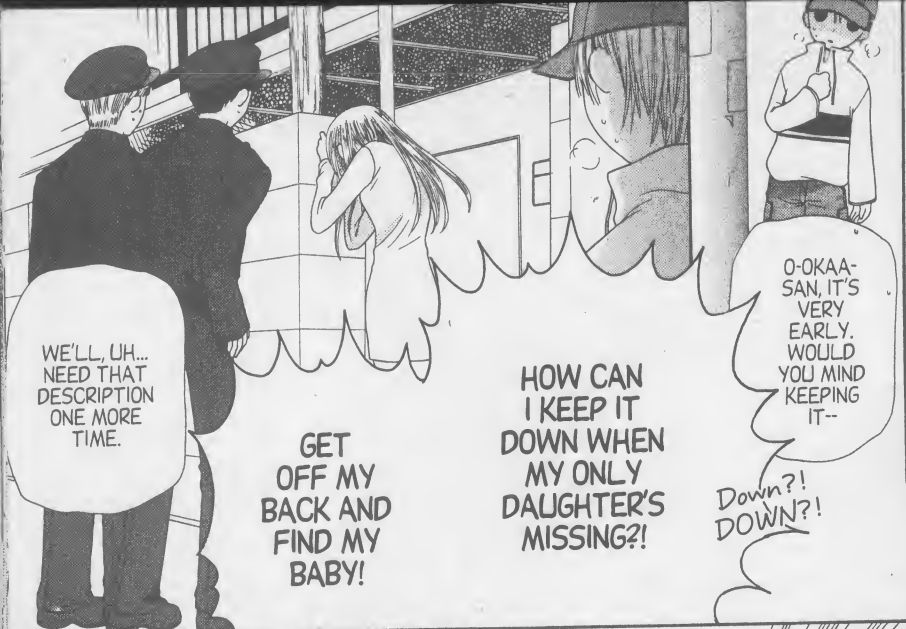
I COULDN'T  
THINK  
STRAIGHT.



...ARE YOU  
GOING TO  
DIE?"

"YUKI..."





WE'LL, UH...  
NEED THAT  
DESCRIPTION  
ONE MORE  
TIME.

GET  
OFF MY  
BACK AND  
FIND MY  
BABY!

HOW CAN  
I KEEP IT  
DOWN WHEN  
MY ONLY  
DAUGHTER'S  
MISSING?!

O-OKAA-  
SAN, IT'S  
VERY  
EARLY.  
WOULD  
YOU MIND  
KEEPING  
IT--

Down?!  
DOWN?!



SHE'S  
SO FRICKIN'  
ADORABLE.  
SOMEONE  
PROBABLY  
WALKED OFF  
WITH HER!

WHAT'LL  
I DO?! IF  
ANYTHING  
HAPPENS TO  
HER, I...

I'M  
AFRAID  
NOT.

GOT  
IT?!

SHE'S AN  
ADORABLE GIRL  
WITH AN ADOR-  
ABLE VOICE AND  
FACE, WEAR-  
ING ADORABLE  
CLOTHES AND  
WITH ADORABLE  
POM-POMS IN  
HER HAIR!

I  
already  
told  
you!



I DIDN'T  
STOP, EVEN  
WHEN I  
COULD  
BARELY  
BREATHE.

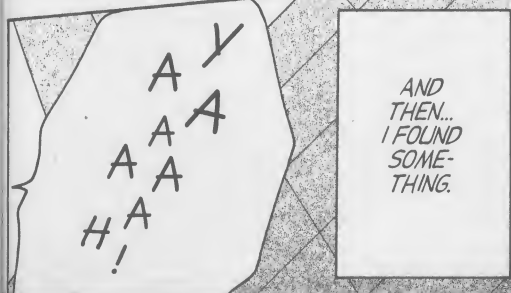
RIGHT  
AFTER  
DAWN, THE  
STREETS  
WERE  
MOSTLY  
EMPTY.

I RAN AS  
FAR AS  
I COULD  
GO.



BEFORE I  
KNEW IT, I'D  
LOST MY  
WAY.

I STILL  
DIDN'T  
STOP.



A  
A  
A  
A  
H!

AND  
THEN...  
I FOUND  
SOME-  
THING.



I WAS  
BAD AT  
GIVING  
UP.

...THAT  
WAS  
PROB-  
ABLY  
IT.

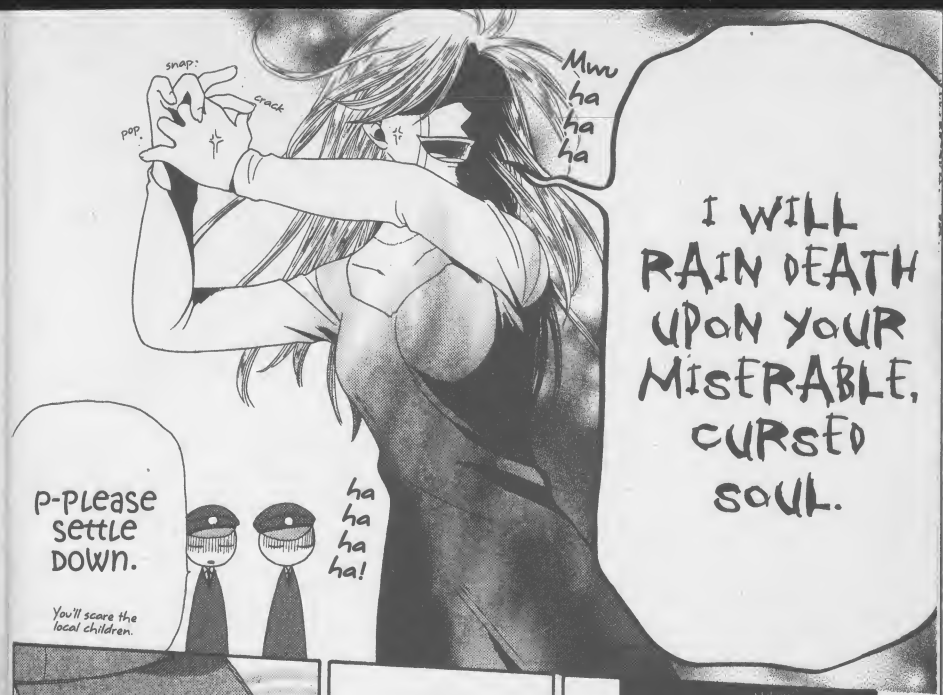


HERE,  
MAYBE.

I'M SURE  
IT WAS  
AROUND  
HERE.



I WONDER  
IF I JUST  
IMAGINED...



Muu  
ha  
ha  
ha

I WILL  
RAIN DEATH  
UPON YOUR  
MISERABLE,  
CURSED  
SOUL.

p-please  
settle  
down.

ha  
ha  
ha  
ha!

You'll scare the  
local children.



"...AND  
WITH  
ADORABLE  
POM-POMS  
IN HER  
HAIR!"

WAIT.



HOW  
FAR  
BACK  
WAS IT?

THAT  
SOUNDS  
FAMILIAR.



THERE ARE  
MOTHERS WHO  
REALLY WORRY  
ABOUT THEIR  
CHILDREN THAT  
MUCH?



...I'M  
SCARED!

FORGET ALL  
OF YOU! I'LL  
FIND HER  
MYSELF!

BUT...

OKAA-SAN,  
PLEASE  
JUST WAIT  
AT HOME!





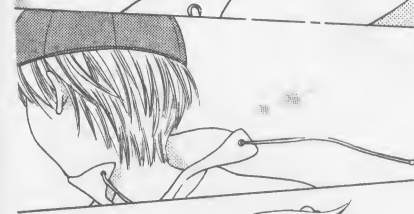




**THIS  
GIRL  
NEEDS  
ME.**

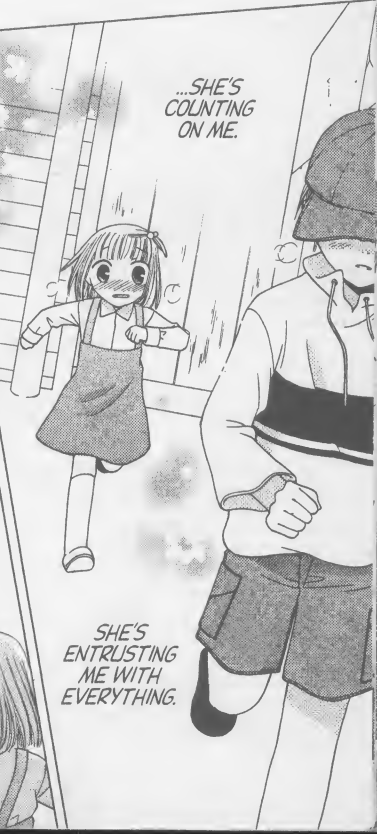


**BUT  
RIGHT  
NOW...**



**SHE  
WANTS  
TO FIND  
HER WAY  
AGAIN.**

**SHE'S  
DESPERATE--  
THAT'S WHY  
SHE'S TRAILING  
AFTER ME.**



**...SHE'S  
COUNTING  
ON ME.**

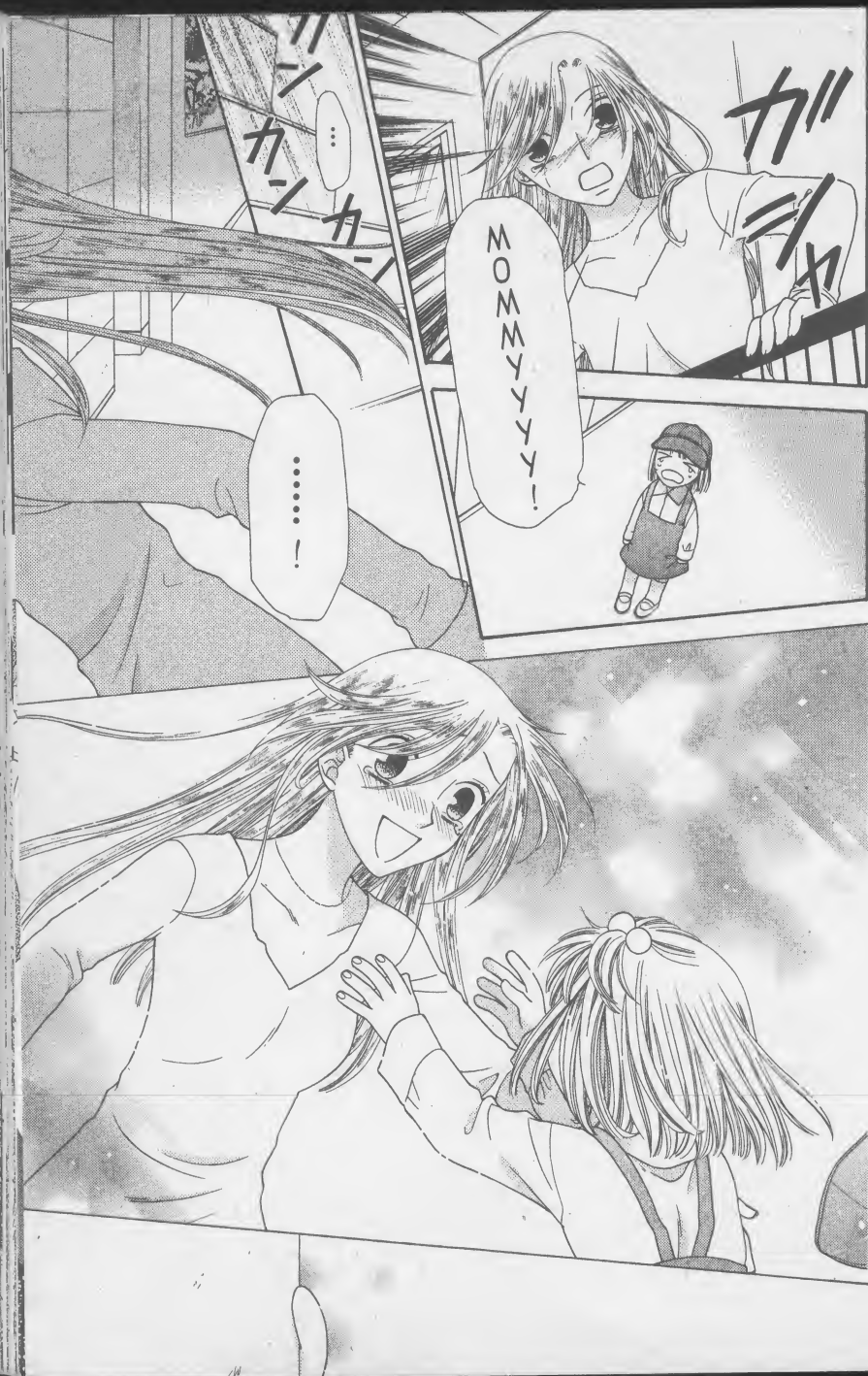


**SHE'S...**

**ME.**

**SHE'S  
ENTRUSTING  
ME WITH  
EVERYTHING.**

**...COUNTING  
ON  
ME.**



...WHEN  
SOMEBODY  
NEEDED  
ME.

THERE  
WAS A  
TIME...

THAT'S  
RIGHT.

REMEMBER.

...A  
MOMENT...

GOOD LORD,  
YUKI-SAN!

I KNOW  
IT DID.

EVEN IF  
NO ONE  
ELSE  
REMEM-  
BERS.

WHERE  
HAVE  
YOU  
BEEN?!

NEVER  
MIND, JUST  
CALL THE  
DOCTOR!

HURRY  
AND CALL  
SENSEI!

Y-YES,  
MA'AM!

EVEN  
IF YOU  
YOURSELF  
FORGET.

THAT  
MOMENT  
STILL  
HAPPENED.

WAS I?

THAT  
MAKES  
ME SO  
HAPPY.

WAS I  
ABLE...

...TO  
HELP...

...EVEN  
JUST A  
LITTLE  
?

I'M...

I'M SO  
HAPPY.

I'M  
SO, SO  
HAPPY!





WHAT'S SO  
"PITIFUL AND  
PATHETIC"?

YOU'VE BEEN  
SPACING OUT  
FOR A WHILE  
THERE.

...WELL?

Uhh-ahh.  
YOU DON'T  
WANNA  
HURL AGAIN,  
DO YOU?

IT WAS  
AROUND THAT  
TIME THAT I  
MET HONDA-  
SAN.

I LIVED AN  
ISOLATED LIFE;  
MY OWN FAMILY  
ABANDONED ME.

IT'S NOT A  
PLEASANT  
MEMORY.

I  
WAS JUST...  
THINKING  
ABOUT MY  
CHILDHOOD.



IT  
ISN'T  
ONLY  
BLACK.



THE  
WORLD IS  
MORE THAN  
DARKNESS.



IT'S  
TRUE.

THIS  
ISN'T A  
WORLD  
ENVELOPED  
IN LIGHT.



AND  
YET...

...THERE'S  
MORE TO  
IT THAN  
THAT.





...I'M AN IDIOT.

HOPE.



IT  
TURNED  
TO  
DESPAIR.



AND  
ASPIRA-  
TION...

...TURNED  
TO  
JEALOUSY.



I  
WANTED  
TO BE  
LOVED.



THE  
DARKNESS  
IS VAST AND  
STIFLING.

IN THE  
END...

...IT EVEN  
TWISTED  
ME.



...I FAILED  
IN THAT  
RESPECT.

WELL,  
AS A  
CHILD...



...I GREW  
WEAK  
AGAIN.

OVER  
TIME...



I SHOULD  
HAVE UNDER-  
STOOD THAT.

MY  
HEART  
GREW  
WEAK.



I SHOULD  
HAVE  
KNOWN.

LITTLE BY  
LITTLE, I  
CONTINUED  
TO LOSE.



BUT IT  
WAS ONLY ONCE,  
WHEN WE WERE  
VERY SMALL. I  
NEVER LEARNED  
HER NAME.

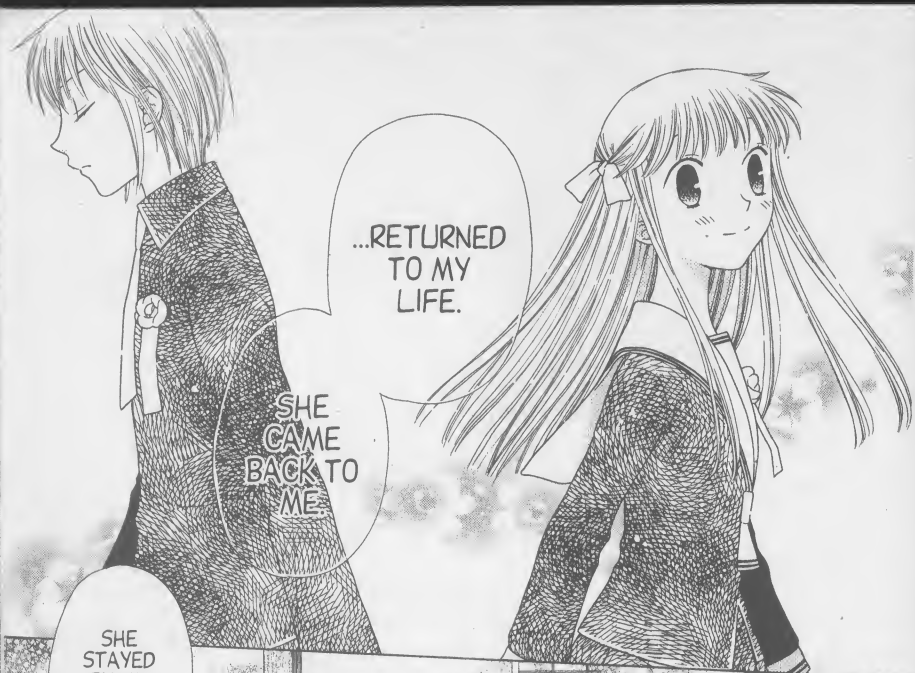
WHEN I  
MET HER  
AGAIN, I DIDN'T  
RECOGNIZE  
HER.



...I  
WANTED  
TO TRY MY  
BEST.

I KNEW  
THERE WAS  
MORE THAN  
DARKNESS IN  
THE WORLD.

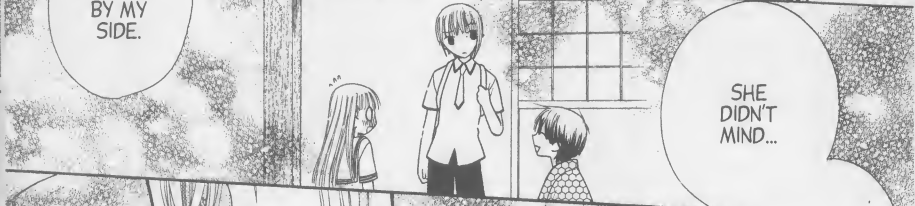
I WANTED  
TO TRY TO  
LIVE THE BEST  
LIFE I COULD.



...RETURNED  
TO MY  
LIFE.

SHE  
CAME  
BACK TO  
ME.

SHE  
STAYED  
BY MY  
SIDE.



SHE  
DIDN'T  
MIND...



AND SHE  
NEVER GOT  
FED UP OR  
REPRIMANDED  
ME.

...BEING  
WITH ME.

AGAIN.

AND  
AGAIN...

SHE  
LISTENED  
TO WHAT I  
HAD TO SAY.

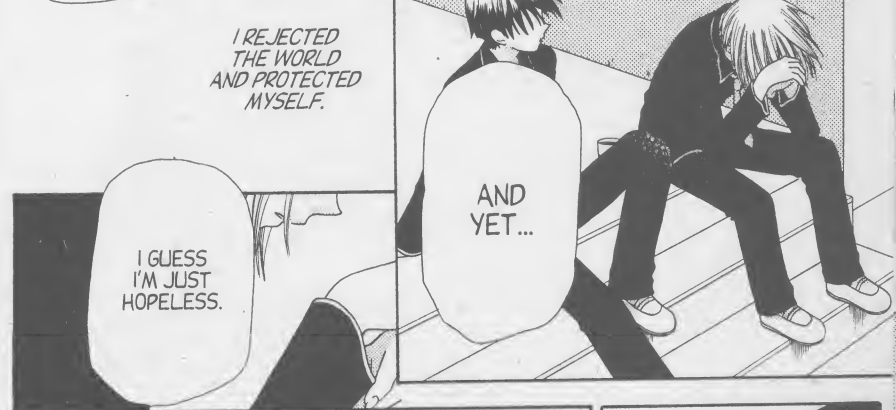


IN THE  
END...

...I JUST  
CLOSED UP  
INSIDE MY  
SHELL.

I WANTED  
HIM TO BE  
MY FRIEND.

THAT  
WAS  
ALL, YOU  
KNOW?



I REJECTED  
THE WORLD  
AND PROTECTED  
MYSELF.

AND  
YET...

I GUESS  
I'M JUST  
HOPELESS.



STILL,  
THOUGH.

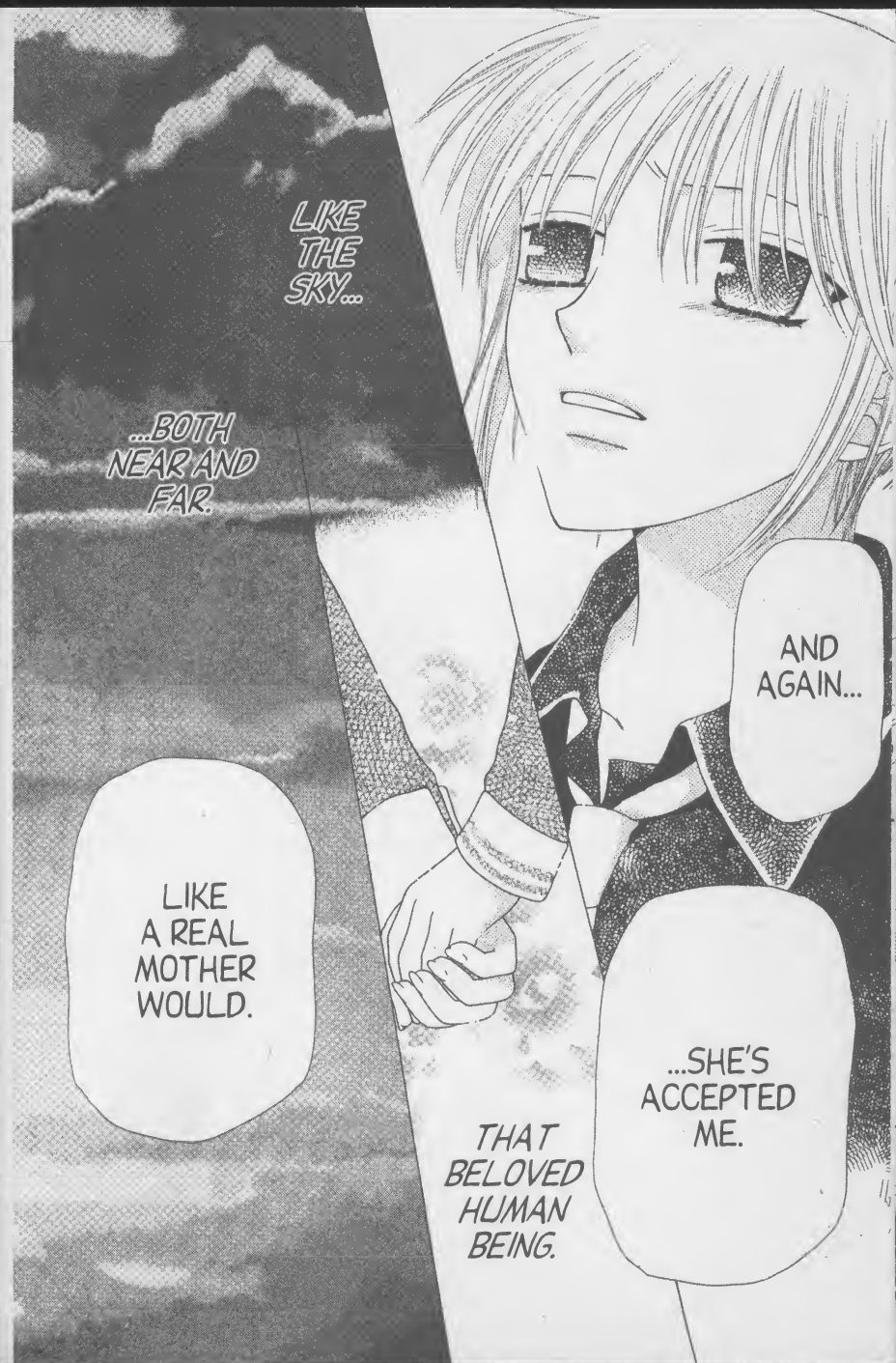
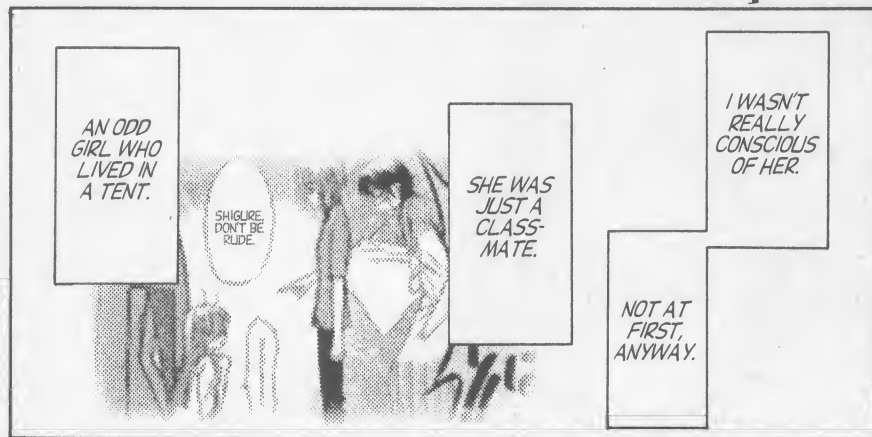
DESPITE  
ALL THAT.

I MAY BE  
HOPELESS...



...BUT  
SHE  
STILL...

# Chapter 86





"LIKE A  
MOTHER  
WOULD"?

THAT'S,  
UH...

A  
MOTHER?

HM.

I ACHED  
FOR IT,  
REALLY.

THAT  
KIND OF  
PARENTAL  
LOVE...

I'D NEVER  
REALLY  
KNOWN IT  
BEFORE.

I  
WANTED  
THAT.

YOU  
LOST  
ME.

But  
hey!

YOU WANT  
MY MOM?  
YOU CAN  
HAVE HER.

HA  
HA.

...WILL YOU  
STILL BE MY  
FRIEND?

PLEASE...IF  
MY MEMORIES  
ARE ERASED...





IT  
MADE ME  
FEEL...

...AT  
PEACE,  
YOU  
KNOW?

THAT  
MADE ME  
SO HAPPY.

THERE  
WAS A  
PLACE  
WHERE I  
COULD SUR-  
RENDER MY  
MIND AND  
BODY...  
A PLACE  
WHERE  
I COULD  
GIVE UP...

RIN CAN  
UNDER-  
STAND  
THAT.

I WAS  
LOOKING  
FOR A  
MOTHER.

I NEEDED  
A MOTHER'S  
LOVE.

RIN.

GOING TO BED,  
FILLED  
WITH  
KINDNESS...

LIKE A  
SLEEPING  
CHILD.

...AND  
YET STILL  
SHOWERED  
WITH UNCON-  
DITIONAL  
LOVE.



SHE SAID  
THAT  
PEOPLE  
AREN'T  
BORN  
WITH KIND  
HEARTS.

AND SHE  
NEVER  
LOOKED  
FRUSTRATED.

SHE LISTENED  
TO EVERYTHING  
I COULD THINK  
TO COMPLAIN  
ABOUT.

SHE  
ACCEPTED ME  
COMPLETELY!

THAT'S  
WHY...

BUT AT  
THE SAME  
TIME...

...SHE  
DIDN'T  
DENY...

...THAT  
OTHER  
PEOPLE  
ARE AS  
WEAK AS  
I AM.

...IT MADE  
ME SO  
HAPPY.

AND THAT'S WHAT I'D BEEN LOOKING FOR.

...SHE WAS REALLY MORE LIKE A MOTHER TO ME.

BEFORE SHE WAS SOMEONE OF THE OPPOSITE SEX...

WELL.

BUT I PANICKED.

ALWAYS

I JUST WANTED TO BE CHILDISH IN A PLACE I FELT COMFORTABLE.

IT'S NOT AS IF I WANTED TO DO ANYTHING.

I PRETENDED TO NOT REALIZE.

AT FIRST, ANYWAY.

THE WHOLE THING WAS EMBARRASSING, AND I DIDN'T WANT TO ADMIT TO IT.

VERY CONFUSED, ACTUALLY.

WHEN I REALIZED I WAS THINKING OF HER THAT WAY, I GOT CONFUSED.

I FEEL LIKE...

...FOR SOME REASON...

I REALIZED IT THAT NIGHT.

EVEN THOUGH SHE'S A GIRL YOU CAN BE ATTRACTED TO?

YES.

...I FOUND IT IN HONDA-SAN.

AND BEFORE I KNEW IT...

SHE HAD THE FORM OF A REAL WOMAN.

THE NIGHT KYO TRANSFORMED.

I NOTICED SOMETHING AS SHE RAN AFTER HIM.

WHY DID I SEE HER THAT WAY?

WHY WAS I STRUCK SO INTENSELY BY THAT?

I WONDER

Slowly.

Now I'm going to revive all the chat of the Furuba characters. I wonder if I should talk about main characters, too? Even the lead characters have pieces of their back stories the manga can't cover. I think I'll write carefully about them and center on those things. And so, without daring to comment on whether or not I should bother writing things that aren't in the manga, here you go... (I'm losing material.)

...  
We'll begin with he who is often known as the best marriage material of the cast:

Hatori.

Hatori was once part of a family of three, with his father (who died of an illness when he was in high school) and his mother (who died of an illness when he was in elementary school).

By the way, the doctor who appears in the first scene of Chapter 85 is Hatori's father. (You can't tell.)

They were very strict parents. It wasn't a particularly warm home.

To be continued...



QUIT ARGUING WITH YOURSELF, YUKI. IT'S JUST AS BAD AS GIVING UP.

IS THAT REALLY SUCH A BAD THING?

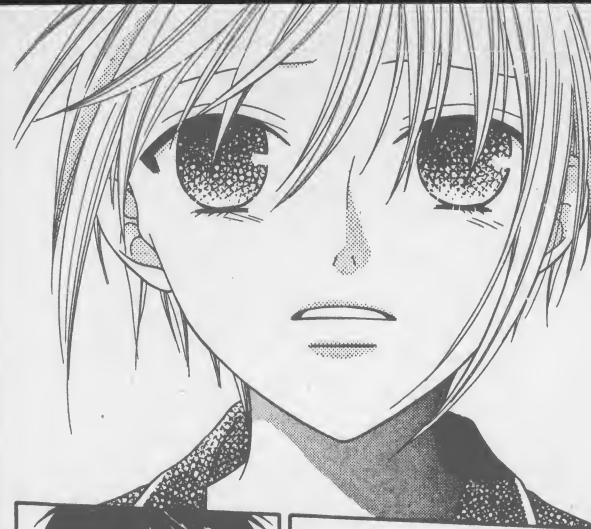
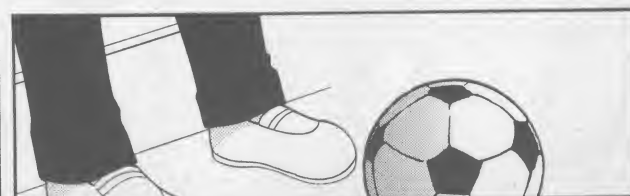
NOT THAT I COMPLETELY GET IT...

...BUT I HEARD THAT LOTS OF PEOPLE LOOK FOR MOMS IN THEIR GIRL-FRIENDS.



KYO. ANYWAY, IT SOUNDS TO ME LIKE YOU THINK YOU CAN'T COMPETE WITH HIM.

WHAT'S THAT GUY'S NAME-- KYO?



I PUT A LID ON MY FEELINGS.



BUT I WAS WRONG.



HEY.



THAT'S NOT THE WAY IT IS WITH US.



I TRIED TO TALK TO HER...

I TOLD MYSELF IT WASN'T LIKE THAT.



...LIKE BOYS DO TO GIRLS.







I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT!

OOF.

MAYBE SOME COUPLES DO FEEL THAT WAY.

WELL, FINE. FINE.



WHETHER OR NOT I'M A MATCH FOR HIM...

...WHETHER IT'S GOOD OR BAD, RIGHT OR WRONG.

I DON'T CARE ABOUT ALL THAT.



I DON'T LIKE IT!

IT'S JUST...

...I DON'T LIKE IT.

IT'S SO...

...



YOU CAN SEE IT IN HER EYES, TOO.

Mm...

YOUR VOICE GETTING QUIETER YOU KNOW?

AND SHE ONLY DIRECTS THAT AT HIM.

BELIEVE ME.

THAT'S NOT THE REASON.



IT'S TRUE THAT I WANTED TO BE LIKE HIM.

AND HE CERTAINLY DOES...

THAT'S NOT IT.



...SEE HER AS A WOMAN.



YOU CAN SEE IT IN HIS EYES.

HE LOOKS AT HER WITH LOVE.





...AND NOT  
WASTE  
WHAT I  
HAVE.

I DON'T  
WANT TO  
LOSE TO  
THE DARK-  
NESS

IT'S  
N-NOT...  
THAT I'M  
GIVING UP.

I'M BAD  
AT GIVING  
UP. REALLY,  
I AM.

I WANT  
TO GO  
FORWARD.

I WANT TO  
BELIEVE,  
THIS TIME...

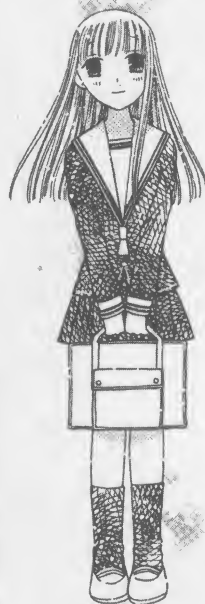


I'M...  
A GREEDY  
HUMAN  
BEING.

I WANT  
TO FIND MY  
OWN PROOF.

FUELED  
BY THE  
MANY KIND-  
NESSES...

...AND  
ALL THE  
WARMTH  
YOU GAVE  
ME.



I WANT  
TO START  
WALKING  
AGAIN.

I WANT  
TO GIVE...

I DON'T  
WANT TO  
JUST  
SLEEP.  
I DON'T  
WANT TO  
JUST  
RECEIVE.

I WANT TO  
NEED SOME-  
ONE, AND BE  
NEEDED IN  
RETURN.

EVEN  
I WANT  
SOMEONE  
WHO LIVES  
ON MY LEVEL.

...I WANT  
TO DO  
IT BY  
MY OWN  
STRENGTH.

AND  
THIS  
TIME...

I WANT  
TO FIND IT.

...SOMETHING  
ONLY I CAN  
GIVE.



...IT'S  
SO DAMN  
LONELY.



DON'T  
CRY,  
YUN-  
YUN!



HEY, I'M  
JUST TRYING  
TO CHEER  
YOU UP!

AND IF YOU  
EVER GOT A  
NOSEBLEED, I'D  
USE MY CELL  
PHONE TO SHOW  
EVERYONE!

You  
stink!

YOUR CELL  
PHONE DOESN'T  
EVEN HAVE A  
CAMERA!

You  
stink!



grab

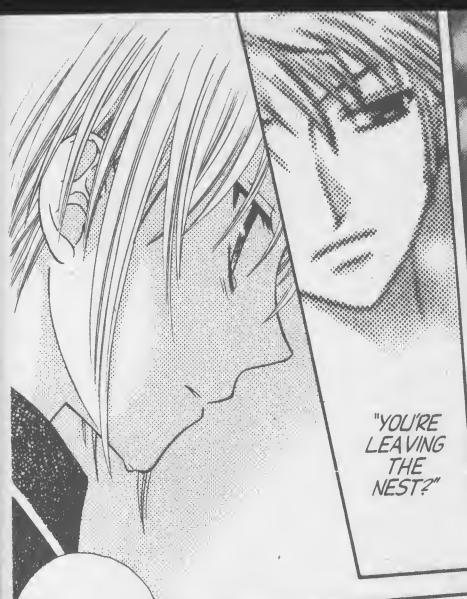
OW.

THAT  
HURT!

I DON'T  
APPRECIATE  
THE SUDDEN  
THREAT OF A  
NOSEBLEED!

Caught  
with his  
guard  
down.

GAH!

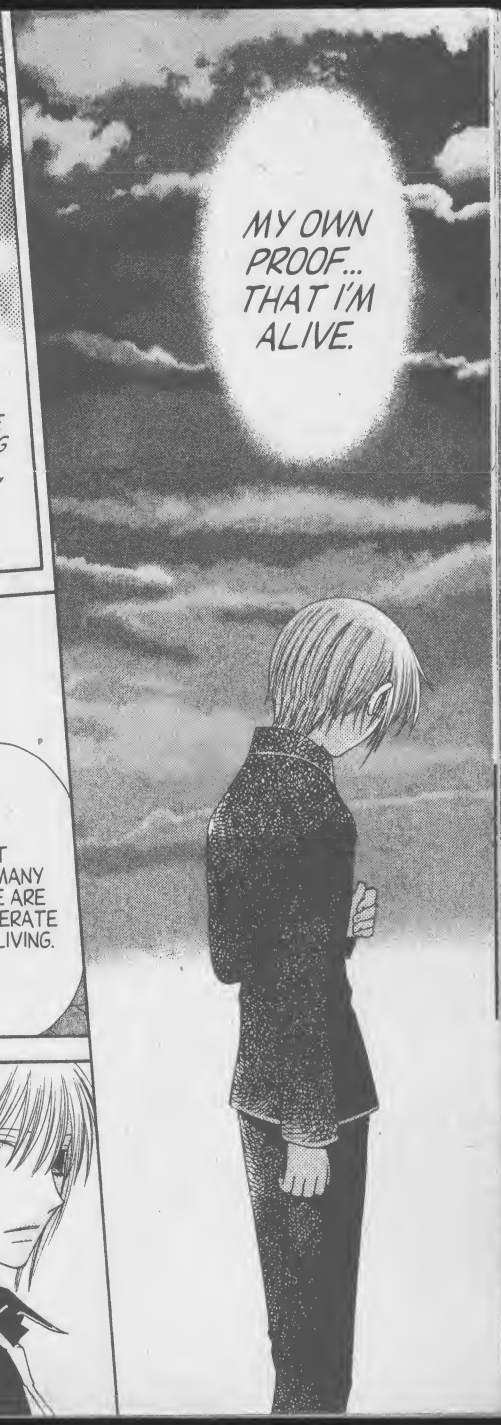


"YOU'RE  
LEAVING  
THE  
NEST?"

THAT'S  
PRETTY  
RARE,  
Y'KNOW.



NOT  
THAT MANY  
PEOPLE ARE  
SO DESPERATE  
ABOUT LIVING.



MY OWN  
PROOF...  
THAT I'M  
ALIVE.



UM...I'M  
FEELING  
RELIEVED.

I THINK.



OF...  
COURSE  
YOU ARE.

OF COURSE  
I'M BOTHERED!  
I'M WORRIED  
ABOUT  
YUN-YUN!

ARE YOU  
FEELING  
OKAY NOW?



FEEL-  
ING?

...



GOOD.



Relieved?  
Did you  
puke?

IS IT  
BECAUSE  
I TOLD  
SOME-  
ONE?

THOSE  
WERE  
ALL  
SECRETS  
UNTIL  
NOW.

DO YOU  
NOW?

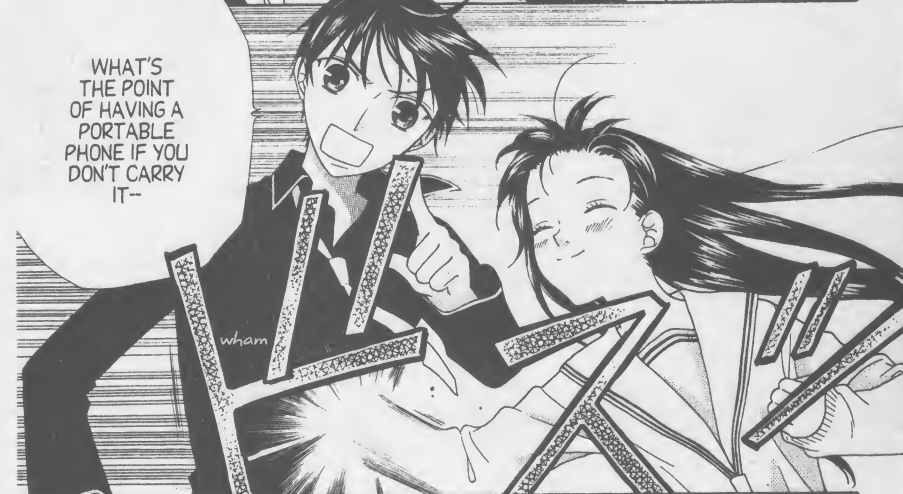


WHA?!

OH, I'M  
SO SORRY--  
IT'S IN MY BOOK  
BAG AT THE  
MOMENT.

OOPS.

THEN  
GIMME  
YOURS!



WHAT'S  
THE POINT  
OF HAVING A  
PORTABLE  
PHONE IF YOU  
DON'T CARRY  
IT--



AND KIMI--  
THANK YOU.  
DID YOU  
COME TO  
CHECK ON  
ME?

I  
SURE  
DID!

Since you  
didn't come  
back.

DOESN'T  
MY LYING  
HERE, I  
DUNNO,  
BOTHER  
ANYONE?

MY  
CONDO-  
LENCES,  
SIR.

Hmph!

YOU'RE  
SO VIOLENT,  
KAKERU.  
LEAVE  
YUN-YUN'S  
FACE ALONE!

Grrr!

Innards...  
caving...

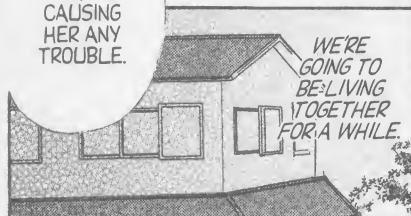




I DON'T WANT TO MAKE HER WORRY.

AT THE MOMENT ...

...I'D LIKE TO AVOID CAUSING HER ANY TROUBLE.



WE'RE GOING TO BE LIVING TOGETHER FOR A WHILE.



Y'KNOW, ABOUT ALL THAT STUFF.

ANYWAY, WHY HAVEN'T YOU TALKED TO HER YET?

ER...



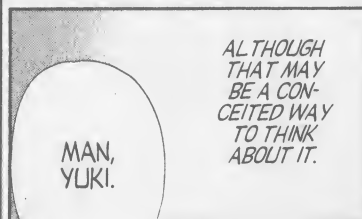
YOU REALLY ARE A GOOD GUY.



AND SHE ALWAYS PUTS OTHERS BEFORE HERSELF.

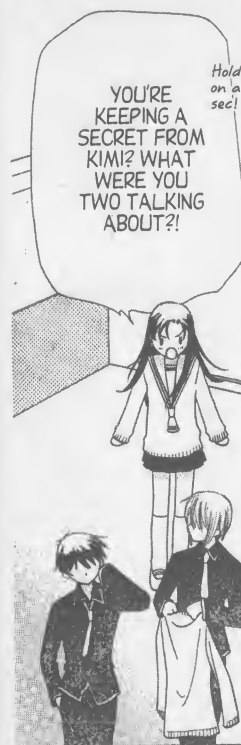
KNOWING MY FEELINGS MAYBE TOO MUCH FOR HER TO HANDLE

...H.M.



ALTHOUGH THAT MAY BE A CONCEITED WAY TO THINK ABOUT IT.

MAN, YUKI.



YOU'RE KEEPING A SECRET FROM KIMI? WHAT WERE YOU TWO TALKING ABOUT?!

Hold on a sec!



Forget it, Kimi.

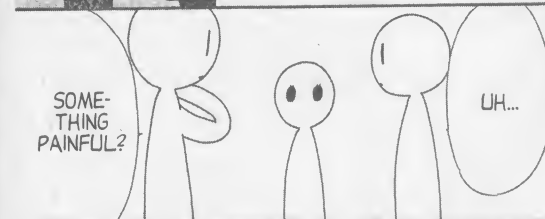
OR MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE...

...HE'S ACTUALLY VERY NICE.



Huh?

Huh?



SOME-THING PAINFUL?

UH...



OMIGOD!

No way no way! something totally indecent?!

WE HAVE DIRTY MINDS.

WHY DOES IT ALWAYS RETURN TO THAT?



IS IT BECAUSE SOMEONE IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WORLD...

...ACTUALLY LISTENED TO ME?





I Have a mountain of lines!

I READ THE SCRIPT.

WH-WHAT DO I DO?

I'M SURE OF IT.



CINDERELLA, HUH?

Wait.

KYO-KUN IS PRINCE CHARMING? YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!

ER... THAT'S RIGHT.

I'D PAY MONEY TO SEE THAT. WHERE'D I LEAVE THE CAMCORDER?

Pff!



WHAT IF I DRAW A BLANK AND RUIN THE PLAY FOR EVERYONE?!

I-I'M NOT SURE I CAN REMEMBER THEM ALL AND NOT FORGET ANY!

The unparalleled nervousness is swirling like a storm.

YOU'RE DOING A PLAY? OOH, WHICH ONE?

Lemme see!



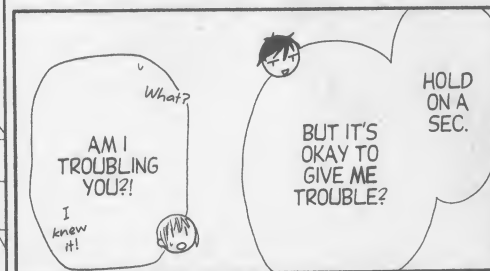
IT'S A MASSIVE TROUBLE. THE BURDEN OF ALL BURDENS. I'LL HAVE NIGHTMARES FOR SURE.

AND I MAY NEVER HAVE THE WILL TO EAT AGAIN.

THAT BAD, HUH?

Let's ditch him!

I'LL BE ABLE TO TELL HER SOMEDAY.



AM I TROUBLING YOU?!

I knew it!

What?

BUT IT'S OKAY TO GIVE ME TROUBLE?

HOLD ON A SEC.





YAH!

すか



...ALL RIGHT.

LOOK ME  
IN THE EYE  
AND SAY IT.

glare  
キラーン



Grrrrrr!



NOT  
QUITE.



Ngh...

YAH!

すか

YAAA!

すか



PRINCE  
CHAAARM-  
ING...KYO-KUN  
IS PRINCE  
CHAAARMING!

Heh heh.

SHUT  
UP! STOP  
LAUGH-  
ING!

DON'T  
FEED HIM  
INFORMATION  
HE DOESN'T  
HAVE TO  
KNOW!



AND  
GIMME  
THAT,  
DAMMIT!

OH!



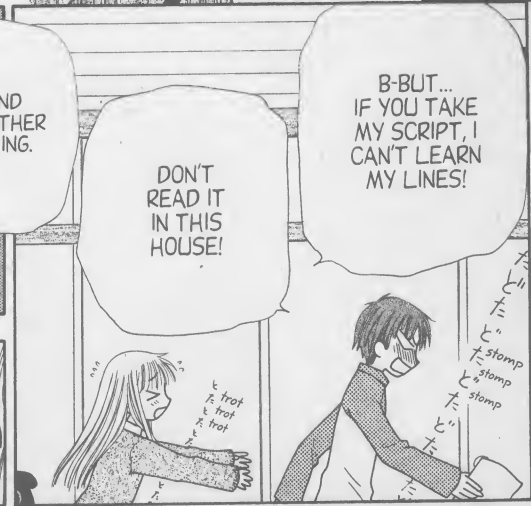
TOHRU...

Y-  
YES!



AND  
ANOTHER  
THING.

YOU  
CAN'T TELL  
SHISHOU.  
GOT THAT?



DON'T  
READ IT  
IN THIS  
HOUSE!

B-BUT...  
IF YOU TAKE  
MY SCRIPT, I  
CAN'T LEARN  
MY LINES!

stomp  
stomp  
stomp



I'M HOME.



Hey!

H-HOW LONG'VE YOU BEEN STANDING THERE?!

HOW LONG INDEED.



WELCOME HOME, YUKI-KUN!



YEEK!

THE POT'S BOILING OVER.



I'M SORRY! I'M COMING!



I can't believe a guy I hate saw that.

OH, HAVE THEY GIVEN OUT THE SCRIPT ALREADY?

YES! AND I HAVE YOURS, YUKI-KUN.

TOHRU-KUN!

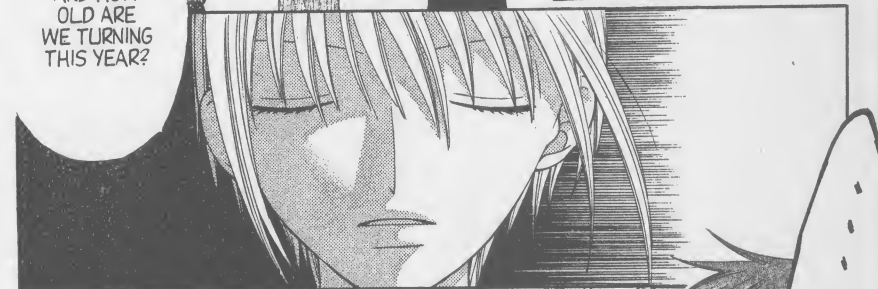


I...

WHY HIDE IT? I'M THE MEAN STEPSISTER!

I WON'T LOSE!

UH, YOU'RE NOT THE ONE BEING MEAN.



AND HOW OLD ARE WE TURNING THIS YEAR?



NOT TO INTERRUPT, BUT MIGHT I HAVE THE PLEASURE OF ENTERING MY HOME?

Kyon-sama the Dim.

YUKI-KUN.





THE  
PERSON  
DEAR TO  
ME.

THE  
PERSON I SO  
ADMIRE...

SHE  
GAVE ME  
EXACTLY  
WHAT I  
NEEDED.



HM?

...EAT  
LATER.

I'LL...

I'M  
HUNGRY  
TODAY. I  
THINK I'LL  
EAT NOW.



WHAT  
?

UH...

I GUESS  
HE'S NOT  
READY TO  
DREDGE UP  
THAT BIT OF  
HIS PAST.



BUT HE'D  
BETTER  
SHAPE UP  
SOON.

I DON'T  
WANT ANY  
TROUBLE.



HONDA-  
SAN HAS  
IT RIGHT  
NOW.



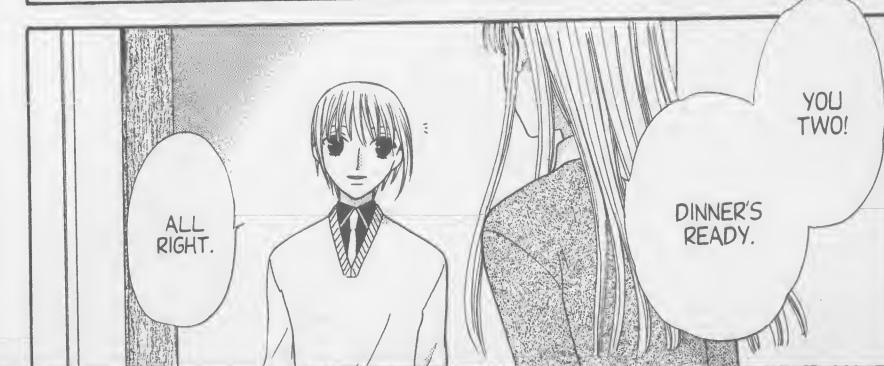
YOU  
WON'T MIND  
IF I DON'T  
GIVE IT BACK,  
WILL YOU?



KYO.

WHAT?

ABOUT  
THE HAT.

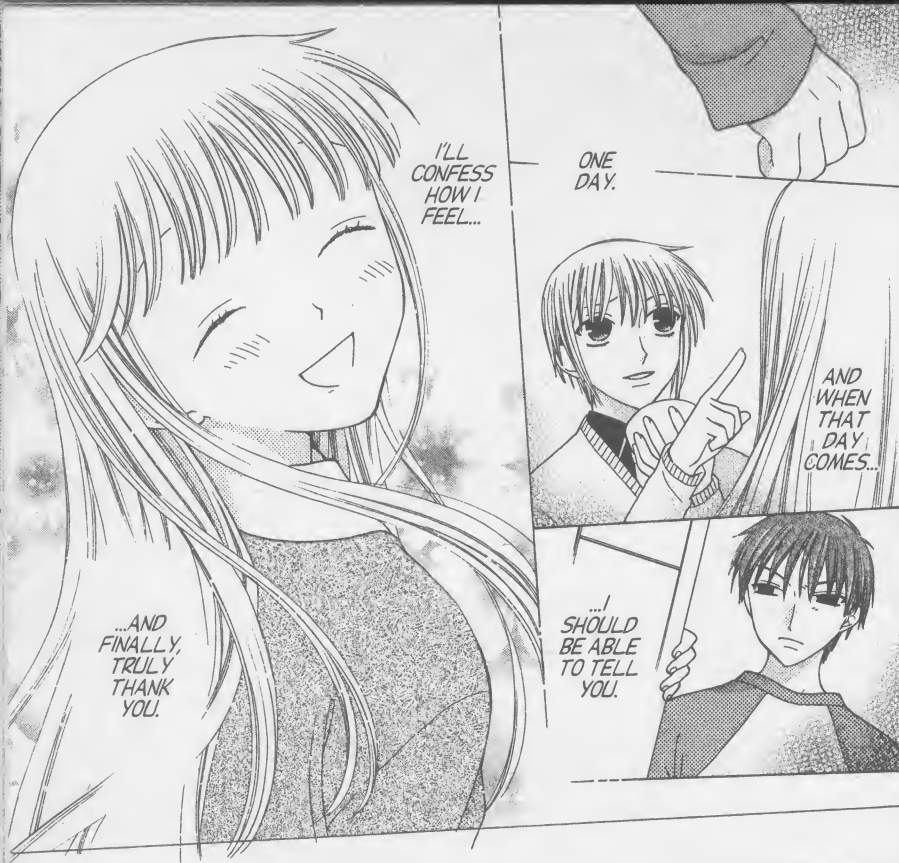


ALL  
RIGHT.

YOU  
TWO!

DINNER'S  
READY.





I'LL  
CONFESS  
HOW I  
FEEL...

ONE  
DAY.

AND  
WHEN  
THAT  
DAY  
COMES...

...AND  
FINALLY,  
TRULY  
THANK  
YOU.

...I  
SHOULD  
BE ABLE  
TO TELL  
YOU.



SHE'S  
PRECIOUS  
TO ME.



THAT  
PLACE  
WHERE WE  
CAN SULK  
OR GET  
ANGRY IF  
WE NEED  
TO.

I'M SURE  
ONE DAY...

I WANT  
YOU TO BE  
HAPPY.

YOU  
MORE THAN  
ANYONE.

...YOU  
CAN FIND  
YOUR  
OWN  
PROOF.

YOU'LL  
DO IT IN  
YOUR OWN  
WAY.

Trust Ayame

SO YOUR  
CLASS WILL BE  
PERFORMING A PLAY  
AT THE CULTURAL  
FESTIVAL? NO, NO,  
NO, YUKI. YOU  
NEEDN'T SPEAK; I  
UNDERSTAND!

MORE  
PRECISELY, I  
HAVE READ! I  
WAS INFORMED  
BY BLACK-KUN,  
MY LOYAL E-MAIL  
COMPANION.

THERE IS  
NO NEED TO  
REQUEST THE  
COSTUMES I  
ALREADY  
VISUALIZE!

I HAVE  
HEARD,  
YUKI!



Prince in a hat.

Filler Sketch



AHEM!

I SHALL  
EXERCISE MY  
SKILL SO THAT  
MY BELOVED LIT-  
TLE BROTHER CAN  
SPARKLE MORE  
GLORIOUSLY THAN  
ANYONE ON  
STAGE!

AND  
HOW MANY  
TIMES WILL  
YOU BE CHANG-  
ING OUTFITS,  
YUKI?

IT'S  
NOT A  
WEDDING,  
NII-SAN.

CLEARLY.

DIRECTLY.





LORD...  
YOU'RE  
SUCH A  
SIMPLETON.

WOULDN'T  
YOU AGREE,  
MY DEAR?

Y-YES!

Er...  
IF YOU  
DON'T HURRY  
AND FINISH...  
YOU MOST  
CERTAINLY  
WON'T GET...

GET...

HEY!  
CINDERELLA!

HURRY  
UP AND  
MAKE OUR  
DRESSES!

THE  
ROYAL BALL'S  
TOMORROW,  
REMEMBER?

2-D

GET  
ANY...!

I FEEL SO  
GRATEFUL!

@

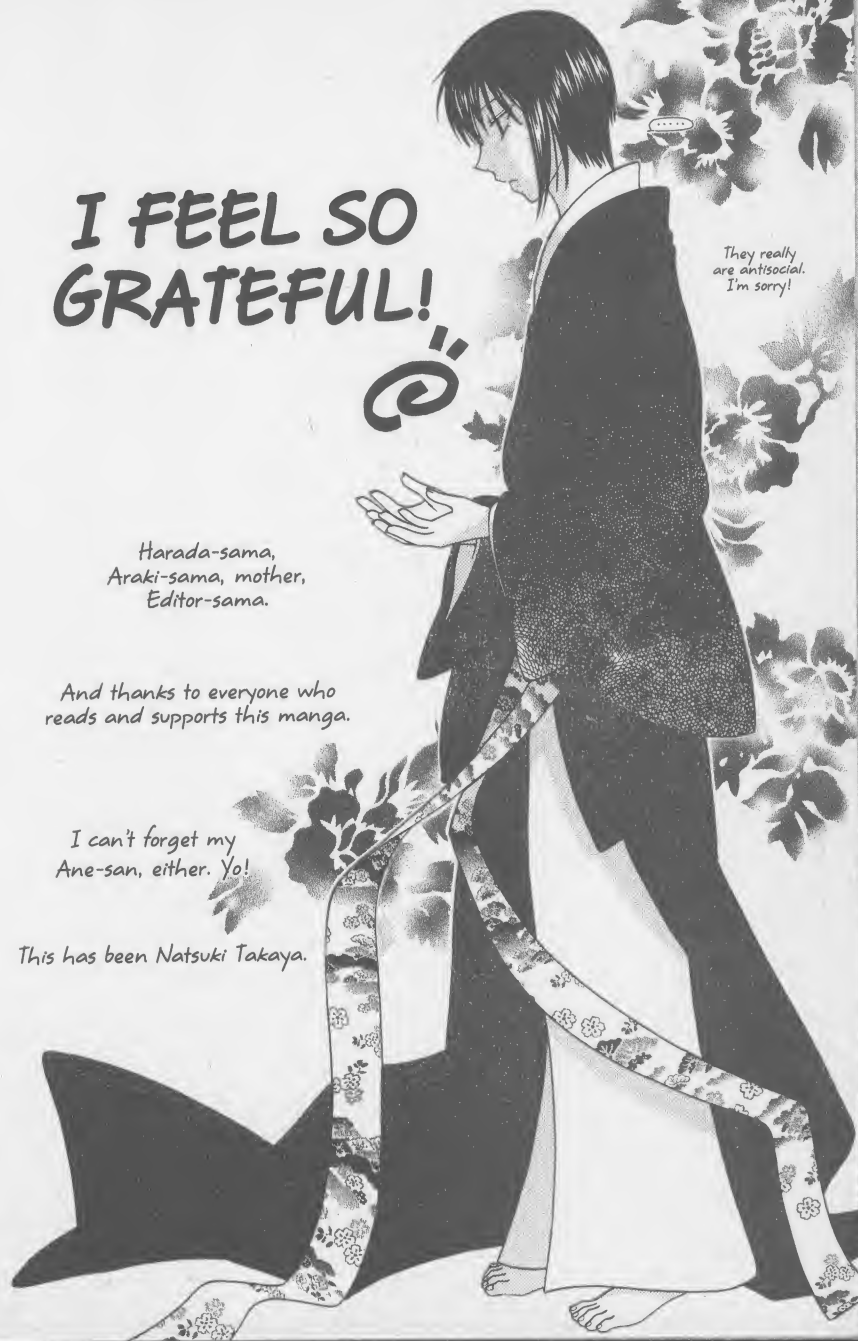
Harada-sama,  
Araki-sama, mother,  
Editor-sama.

And thanks to everyone who  
reads and supports this manga.

I can't forget my  
Ane-san, either. Yo!

This has been Natsuki Takaya.

They really  
are antisocial.  
I'm sorry!







I'M IMPRESSED, KINOSHITA-SAN.

YOU'RE SO PASSIONATE ABOUT THIS.



STOP CRYING, FOR GOD'S SAKE!

ANY...

...DINNER!



NEVER BETTER, THANK YOU.

I'M JUST... WELL...

Um... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT DOWN THERE?



I'M SORRY!

I GUESS YOU CAN'T REALLY FIX A CASTING MISTAKE.

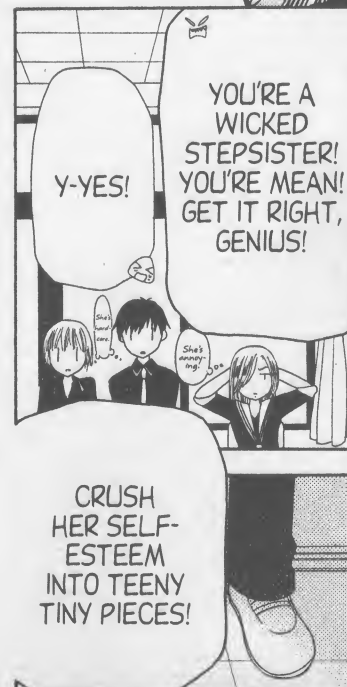


NOOOO! Don't look at me, Yuki-kun!

HUH?

WAIT, MINAMI!

IT'S A SHALLOW WOUND, KINOSHITA!



Y-YES!

YOU'RE A WICKED STEPSISTER! YOU'RE MEAN! GET IT RIGHT, GENIUS!

CRUSH HER SELF-ESTEEM INTO TEENY TINY PIECES!



I'M VERY HAPPY.

YOU'RE CRYING FOR ME, AREN'T YOU?

AND HUGGING! NO HUGGING!



Continuation→

Why begin with me?...

The memory-suppression technique was passed down from his father.

It's similar to hypnosis, really.

Hatori doesn't specifically have to be the one who suppresses memories, but his family is the one that hands down the technique.

He enjoys smoking and can hold his liquor.

He's lazy in some respects. When he undresses, for example, he tends to leave his clothes lying around.

When he was in high school, he was fairly popular with the students from the girls' school next door. All three of the Mabudachi Trio were popular in that regard.

←To be continued

...TO LIKE TO HAVE ANOTHER VOTE.

CINDERELLA WILL BE HANA-CHAN AND PRINCE CHARMING WILL BE KYO-KUN.

Cinderella: Sabi Hanajima

Prince Charming: Kyo Sohma

Stepmother: Minami Kineshita

Stepsister: Tokru Honda

Fairy Godmother: Yuki Sohma

OUR CLASS IS PLANNING TO PUT ON A PLAY OF "CINDERELLA."

I'M WORRIED.

KYO-KUN WOULD MAKE SUCH A WONDERFUL PRINCE CHARMING...

You should rehearse, An-san.  
Bah.

BUT KYO-KUN SEEMS UPSET ABOUT IT. HE WOULDN'T PARTICIPATE IN REHEARSAL TODAY, EITHER.

THIS IS A RARE OPPORTUNITY, SO I HOPE THE PERFORMANCE GOES WELL.

AND OUR COSTUMES WERE ALL CUSTOM-MADE.

EVERYONE'S WORKING AS A TEAM.

Dry your tears, my lost little lambs!

Start Flashback



WHY WOULDN'T THE WICKED SISTER GET DINNER?

I DON'T MIND IF I DON'T GET DINNER!

TIME FLEW BY.

OH, C'MON. YOU'RE TRYING YOUR BEST.

You're just modifying the character.

I'M SORRY... I CAUSE NOTHING BUT TROUBLE.



JUST LET ME TRY IT ONCE MORE!

I'LL WORK HARDER. I WILL!



...AND THE MINUTE THAT TESTS ENDED, WE WERE BUSY WITH THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL.

FIRST IT WAS THE TEST PREPARATIONS...

SO MANY DAYS PASSED IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

OF COURSE!  
IN THE NAME OF  
THE HEAVENS  
AND THE EARTH,  
THE PRINCIPAL  
BESTOWED  
HIS MIGHTY  
PERMISSION  
UPON US!

LET  
US BEGIN,  
MINE!

YES,  
MANAGER!

YOU'LL  
GET  
CAUGHT.

NO NEED TO  
FRET, MY PET. I  
CAN EASILY BREAK  
DOWN ANY OBSTACLE  
THAT OBSTRUCTS  
THE PATH OF US  
LOVING BROTHERS...

WE GOT  
PERMISSION.  
NO WORRIES  
THERE.

HOW DID  
THEY GET  
THAT?

YOU'RE  
LOOKING  
FOR THE GUY  
HALFWAY  
OUT THE  
DOOR.

NOW! YUKI,  
SUBMIT TO  
MY MEASURE-  
MENTS.

UM,  
I'M NOT  
PLAYING  
PRINCE  
CHARMING.

I SHALL  
MAKE YOU INTO  
A GORGEOUS AND  
SLENDER PRINCE  
CHARMING!

Behold the  
power of my  
measuring  
tape!

Ayame  
Has  
arrived!

I DON'T WANT  
TO LET DOWN  
AYAME-SAN  
AND MINE-SAN.

NII-  
SAN?!

OH, MY  
HONEY!

DID YOU EXPECT  
ANYTHING LESS?  
I'M A MAN WHO  
NEVER GOES BACK  
ON HIS WORD!

BUT THIS  
PLACE IS  
ONLY OPEN  
TO PEOPLE  
WITH THE  
SCHOOL.

TIME IS MONEY,  
BOYS AND GIRLS!  
FORM A CRISP  
LINE AND TELL  
ME EVERYTHING--  
ESPECIALLY YOUR  
MEASUREMENTS!

WOW... NII-SAN  
REALLY CAME.





HUH?

PLEASD  
TO MEET YOU!  
DO YOU ENJOY  
DRESSING UP?

Oooh!

HEY. I'M  
UOTANI.

YOU A  
FRIEND OF  
TOHRU'S?

That's  
some  
outfit.

YES,  
THIS IS  
MINE-SAN!

MY  
NAME IS  
HANA-  
JIMA.

ARE YOU  
REALLY?

I SEE.

I'M GOING  
TO MAKE  
EVERYONE'S  
COSTUMES!



NOT  
THAT IT  
MATTERS...  
BUT YOU CAN'T,  
CINDERELLA!

PURE  
BLACK?!

IT'S  
"PURE  
WHITE!"

please,  
make my  
dress pure  
black.



Ha!

KYONKICHI-  
KUN IS YOUR  
PRINCE? I SEE...  
YES, INDEED.

THERE'S NO  
REASON TO  
NOT MAKE HIM  
GORGEOUS AND  
SLENDER!

DESPITE MY  
COMPLETE LACK  
OF CARING, HE'S  
STILL MANAGING  
TO PISS ME OFF.



DRESS-  
ING  
UP...

DO YOU  
ENJOY  
DRESSING  
UP?

MINE-SAN,  
PLEASE BE  
SENSIBLE!

IT HAS  
BEEN A  
LONG  
TIME!

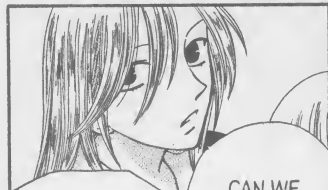
LONG  
TIME NO SEE,  
TOHRU-KUN!

You look  
cute in  
a school  
uniform!

UM...

DO YOU  
KNOW HER,  
HONDA-  
SAN?

I DO!



SURE WE CAN. YOU KNOW THE CLASS THAT'S DOING MITO KOUJIMON?

CAN WE REALLY CHANGE THE STORY?

THEY MADE KOUJIMON-SAMA, SUKE-SAN, AND KAKU-SAN WOMEN WHO KICKED THE TAR OUT OF THE BAD GUYS.



IN THAT CASE, FINE! I'LL REWRITE THE SCRIPT!

IF THE STORY FAILS WITH A MISCAST, THEN I'LL MAKE THE STORY FIT THE CAST!

**B-BUT YOUR LOGIC IS VIOLENT!**

*Inspiration strikes!*



SHE'S NOT DISTURBED!

SHE ACTUALLY SEEMS PLEASED!

pure black.

MMM...THAT HAS A NICE RING TO IT.

*Consider it done!*

I HAVE TO REPAY ALL THE TROUBLE THEY WENT TO.

I SUPPOSE THE TWO OF THEM LEAVE THAT IMPRESSION WHEN THEY RUSH IN LIKE THAT.

EVERY-ONE WAS SURPRISED, I THINK.



I DOUBT IT WOULD GET PAST THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

A JAPANESE CHARLIE'S ANGELS...!

FULL THROTTLE.

SO IS THERE A BATH SCENE WITH CHARACTERS OTHER THAN OGIN-SAN IN IT?!

*I've gotta see that!*



BUT FIRST, YOU CHILL.

I WILL TRY MY BEST DESPITE MY LACK OF DINNER!

I MUST WORK MY HARDEST!

*End Flashback*



OKAY!



UM...

ALL RIGHT, I'M R-READY!



HAVE YOU EVER  
THOUGHT THAT  
MAYBE THAT'S  
THE REASON HE  
WON'T SHOW?

It's  
sure to be  
Hilarious.

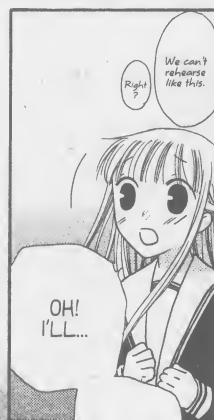


Oh,  
You're  
going  
back now?  
Thanks for  
your help.

I'll leave  
the rest  
to you.

I'LL LOOK  
FOR HIM ON  
THE WAY.

I'M GOING  
BACK TO THE  
STUDENT  
COUNCIL.



We can't  
rehearse  
like this.

Right?

OH!  
I'LL...

I'LL GO  
LOOK--

お  
pat



ER...

I'M  
FEELING  
THE FIRE  
NOW! GET  
MY PEN!

IF  
YOU'RE GOING  
TO REWRITE  
IT, COULD YOU  
CHANGE PRINCE  
CHARMING A  
LITTLE?

HM?



GOOD  
IDEA..

KYON-KYON  
DID RUN OFF  
SOMEWHERE  
AGAIN...

I  
WANNA  
SEE THAT  
PUNK  
PERFORM.



I WANNA SEE  
THAT--I MEAN,  
THOSE LUCKY  
LITTLE DEVILS!  
THEIR PLAY  
IS SURE TO BE  
COOLER!

JEALOUSY  
DOESN'T  
BECOME US,  
SO JEALOUSY  
WE MUST  
OVERCOME!

No way!  
Fight for  
us, ASB  
President!

For  
a bath  
scene?



MAYBE...

...TO A  
PRINCE  
CHARMING  
THAT WOULD  
BE EASIER FOR  
KYO-KUN TO  
PLAY.

MAYBE THEN  
KYO-KUN WILL  
REHEARSE WITH  
US, AFTER ALL.



WHAT  
IS IT  
NOW?

YOU'RE  
SULKING  
LIKE A  
MIFFED  
TODDLER.

GO  
BACK TO  
CLASS.

THEY'RE  
WAITING  
FOR YOU.



"I DON'T  
WANT IT  
IF HE  
TOUCHED  
IT."

"IT'S  
DEAD  
TO ME"

"I  
DON'T..."

"...WANT  
IT ANY-  
MORE."

"IF HE  
TOUCHED  
IT..."

"...IT'S  
NOT  
MINE  
ANY-  
MORE."

"...IT  
MAKES  
ME SICK."





LITTLE  
"PRINCE  
CHARMING,"  
WITHOUT A  
CARE IN THE  
WORLD.

YOU'VE  
NEVER HAD  
TO FEEL WHAT  
IT'S LIKE TO  
GET NOTHING...

...TO WISH,  
LIKE AN IDIOT,  
FOR SOME-  
THING YOU  
CAN'T HAVE!

YOU'RE  
JUST A--

YOU HAD A  
MOM AND DAD!  
EVERYONE  
NEEDED YOU  
AND TOLD YOU  
WHAT A GREAT  
PERSON YOU  
WERE!

YOU JUST  
JUMP OVER  
PEOPLE WHO'RE  
TRYING HARDER  
THAN YOU  
EVER DID...

YOU  
COULDN'T  
POSSIBLY  
UNDERSTAND  
HOW SOME-  
ONE LIKE ME  
FEELS!



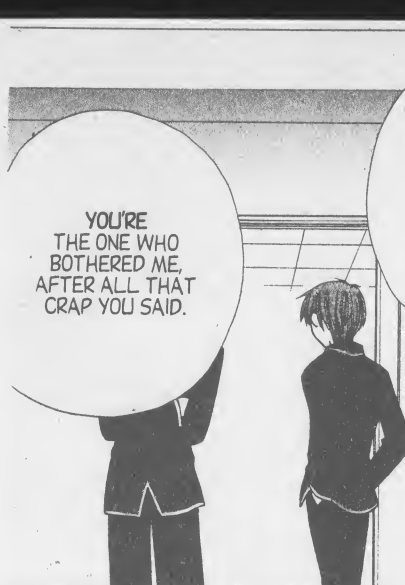
YOU  
JUST LIKE  
SCREWING  
WITH ME!

"ABOUT  
THE  
HAT?"

WHAT?!

YOU  
JUST...

YOU  
HAVE NO  
GODDAMN  
IDEA!




YOU'RE  
THE ONE WHO  
BOTHERED ME,  
AFTER ALL THAT  
CRAP YOU SAID.

I'M  
JUST NOT  
INTERESTED  
IN DANCING  
AROUND ON  
SOME STUPID  
STAGE.

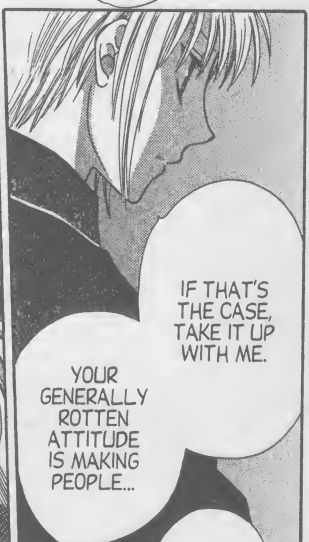


I'M NOT  
SULKING.



IS THAT  
WHAT YOU  
WANT?

**DON'T  
TALK  
ABOUT  
HER!**




IF THAT'S  
THE CASE,  
TAKE IT UP  
WITH ME.

YOUR  
GENERALLY  
ROTTEN  
ATTITUDE  
IS MAKING  
PEOPLE...



...MAKING  
HONDA-  
SAN...  
WORRY.



... YOU  
WOULDN'T  
KNOW WHAT  
TO DO WITH  
YOURSELF,  
WOULD  
YOU?"



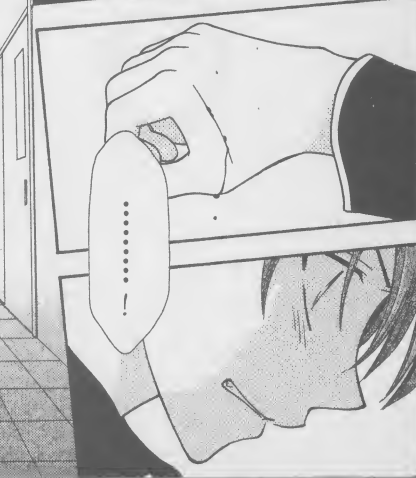
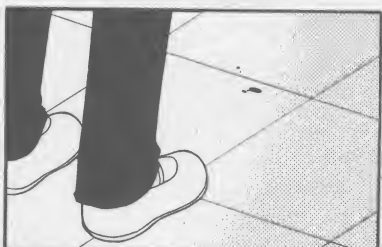
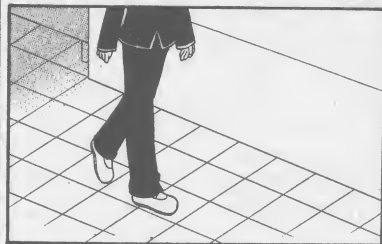
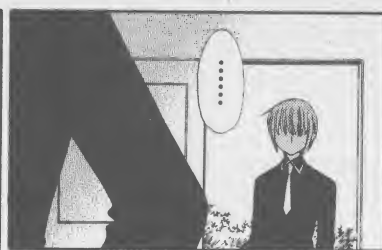
"YOU  
WANT  
HIM..."

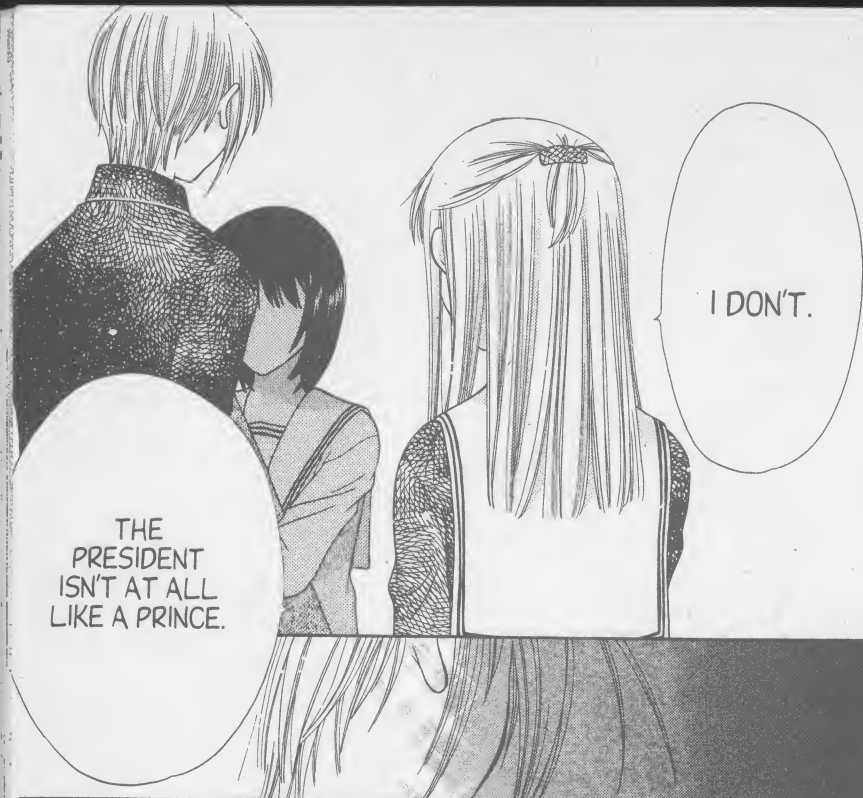


...TO BE  
LIKE THAT,  
DON'T  
YOU?"









THE  
PRESIDENT  
ISN'T AT ALL  
LIKE A PRINCE.

I DON'T.



JEEZ! WHY  
DOES SHE  
ALWAYS HAVE  
TO BE THAT  
WAY?

HUH?

BUT...  
KURAGI-  
SAN!

IT'S LIKE  
SHE'S MAKING  
FUN OF PEOPLE.  
AND SHE ACTS UP  
IN CLASS!



...HELLO.

HELLO!

Wow!  
DID  
SOMETHING  
HAPPEN  
TO THE  
WINDOW?!

ARE YOU  
PREPARING FOR  
THE CULTURAL  
FESTIVAL?  
I THINK YOUR  
CLASS IS DOING  
A BAZAAR...

THAT'S  
RIGHT! WE  
ARE!

Count  
on the  
president to  
remember!

HELLO,  
YAMAGISHI-  
SAN. YOU,  
TOO, MACHI.

DON'T  
WORRY  
ABOUT  
IT.



DON'T YOU  
THINK SO,  
KURAGI-SAN?

YOU'RE  
EXACTLY  
WHAT COMES  
TO MIND WHEN  
I THINK OF A  
STORYBOOK  
PRINCE!

I HEARD YOUR  
CLASS IS DOING  
CINDERELLA. I  
CAN'T WAIT TO  
SEE IT!

THANK  
YOU.

STILL,  
SENPAI. I'M  
A LITTLE  
DISAPPOINTED  
THAT YOU  
WON'T BE  
PLAYING PRINCE  
CHARMING.

KYO-KUN!

OH!

open

slide?

WE  
FINISHED  
REHEARSAL  
FOR TODAY,  
SO EVERYONE  
WENT HOME.

WHY'RE  
YOU ALONE?  
WHAT  
HAPPENED  
TO EVERY-  
BODY?

HUH?

YUKI-KUN WENT  
TO LOOK FOR  
YOU, BUT SINCE  
YOU DIDN'T  
COME BACK...

Your book  
bag was  
still here.

trot  
trot  
f=  
f=  
?



DOESN'T  
THAT SORT  
OF THING  
JUST ANNOY  
THE HECK  
OUT OF YOU?



MAYBE  
SAYING  
WEIRD  
THINGS IS  
JUST A  
CRY FOR  
ATTENTION.



WHAT WAS  
GOING THROUGH  
HER HEAD  
WHILE SHE  
WAITED  
FOR ME?



THE  
PART THEY  
CHANGED  
THE MOST  
WAS--

!



KYO-  
KUN?!

YOUR  
HAND IS  
HURT!

7/7-1  
slide



OH,  
BY THE  
WAY!



"WHAT  
IS IT  
NOW?"



"IS THAT  
WHAT YOU  
WANT?"



I'M SURE YOUR  
PART WILL BE  
A LOT EASIER  
FOR YOU NOW!

I REALLY,  
REALLY HOPE  
YOU'LL READ  
THROUGH IT.



YOU  
WERE  
WAIT-  
ING FOR  
ME...?

I  
WANTED  
YOU TO SEE  
THIS!

IT'S THE  
REVISED  
SCRIPT.

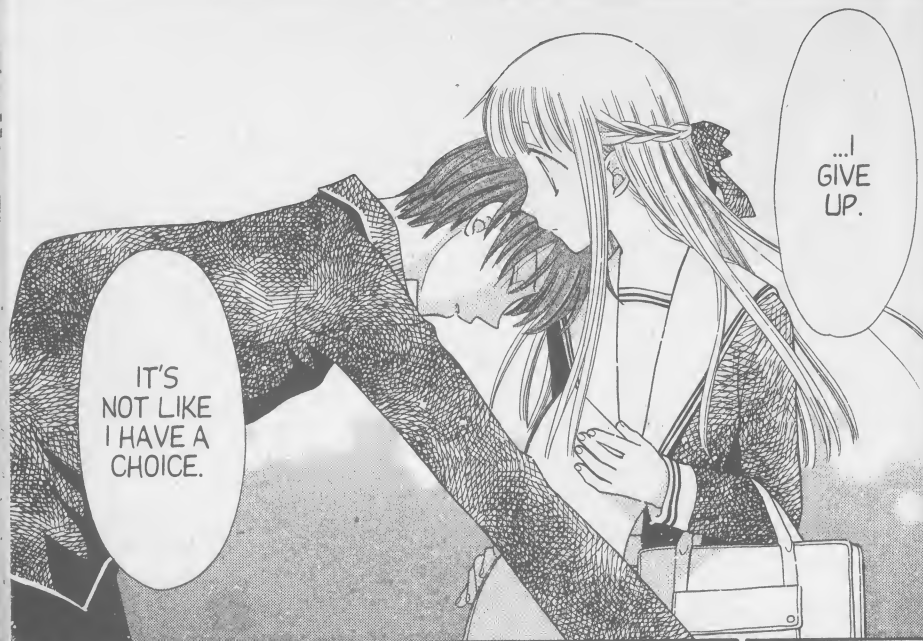
THEY  
REALLY  
REWROTE  
THE WHOLE  
THING!  
And in  
such a  
short  
time!



THEY MADE  
MY ROLE A  
LOT EASIER,  
TOO!

BUT IN MY  
CASE, IT WAS  
MY FAULT--MY  
PERFORMANCE  
WAS SO BAD  
BEFORE.

SHE  
WAS  
ALONE.



IT'S  
NOT LIKE  
I HAVE A  
CHOICE.

...! GIVE  
UP.



ANYWAY.



LET'S  
GO HOME  
ALREADY.



JUST  
PROMISE  
ME ONE  
THING.

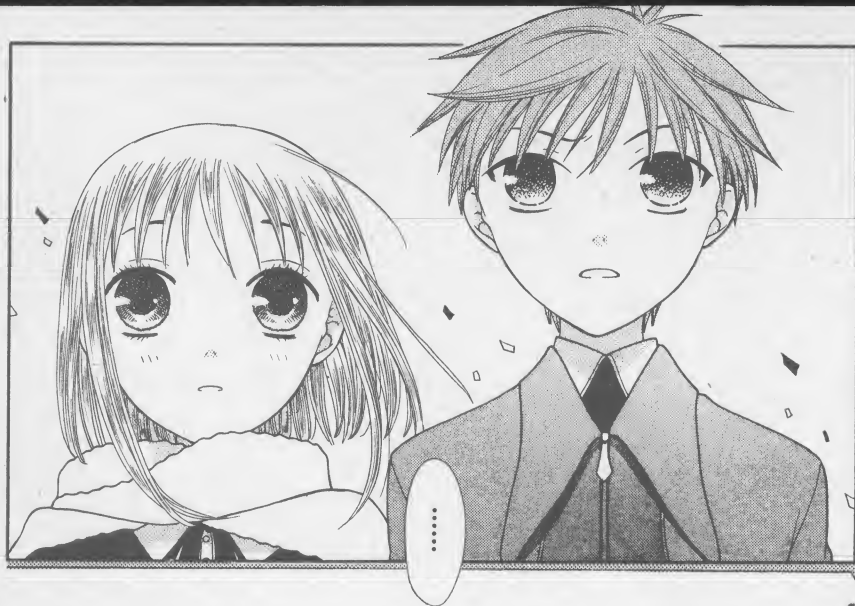
YOU  
WON'T  
LAUGH. NO  
MATTER  
WHAT,  
OKAY?



y--

YOUR...  
... HAND  
...





Kaibara Public **HIGH SCHOOL** Cultural Festival



Chapter 88







MY MONEY'S ON WEIRD, IF THAT ENTRANCE SIGN'S AN INDICATION.

I CAN'T WAIT.

ONEE-CHAN'S PLAY IS GOING TO BE SO GREAT!



Whoa, check out the cutie.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT.

Is she foreign?

Just a wanna little talk to her won't hurt!



HUH?

ANYWAY, BE CAREFUL AROUND HERE.



STUPID SCLIM. GET LOST!

Hooray for the play!



THIS PLACE MAY BE CROWDED, BUT I WON'T BUMP INTO ANYONE!

DON'T WORRY, HIRO-CHAN.



Continued →

Hatori didn't date anyone. Hatori didn't, anyway.

At this moment in time, he's forming a close friendship with Mayu-chan...although that doesn't mean they don't still argue from time to time.

And, obviously, Hatori's still got issues to work through.



My favorite food is chocolate!

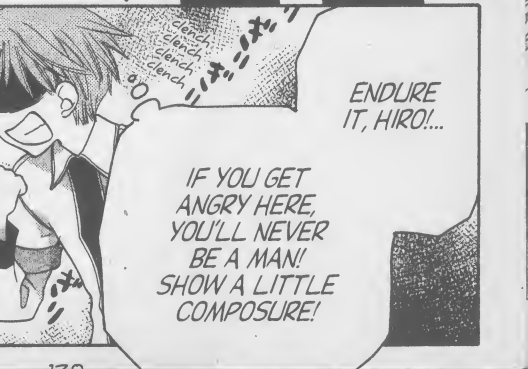
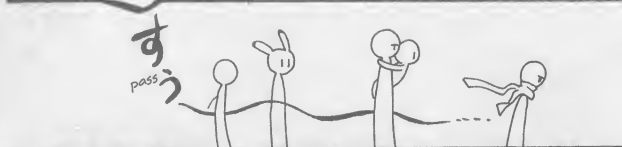
And now we have the boy often described as "a scene-calming agent".

Momiji. ☺

Momiji's family consists of four people: Papa, Mama, his little sister Momo, and himself.

He's currently living alone (sort of). He has several servants.

To be  
← continued







IF YOU WANT  
YOUR PRECIOUS  
SISTER BACK,  
THEN HURRY  
AND FINISH THE  
DRESSES!

THE  
STEPMOTHER  
WAS EAGER  
TO MARRY HER  
DAUGHTER INTO  
THE ROYAL FAM-  
ILY, IN THE HOPES  
OF ATTAINING A  
LIFE OF EASE AND  
COMFORT.

A BALL  
WAS TO  
BE HELD  
AT THE  
PALACE  
THAT  
NIGHT.

RUMOR  
HAD IT THAT  
PRINCE  
CHARMING  
WAS USING  
THE BALL TO  
FIND A BRIDE.

OH  
DEAR!

ONEE-  
SAMA...

YOU'D BETTER  
HAVE OUR  
DRESSES,  
IF YOU'RE  
LOUNGING  
AROUND LIKE  
THAT!

HERE  
I AM.

170  
spotlight

How  
DARE YOU  
SIT THERE  
DRINKING  
TEA?!

Oh...  
MOTHER  
...

I'LL NEED  
A PLAN TO  
STORM THE  
PALACE.

...OH, BUT I  
HAVE THOSE  
DRESSES TO  
MAKE.

H.M.

DON'T  
WORRY.

I should  
drink  
some tea  
and calm  
down.

CINDERELLA  
SEEMED  
DEEPLY IN  
LOVE WITH A  
PRINCE SHE  
HAD NEVER  
MET.

I WON'T  
FORGIVE  
THIS, LITTLE  
PRINCE.

HOW  
TERRIBLE.  
MY SISTER IS  
TAKEN AWAY  
BECAUSE SOME  
PRINCE WANTED  
A BALL...

I HAVE  
TO ADVANCE  
THE STORY.  
YOU LITTLE  
BRAT! BUT  
DON'T YOU  
DARE EMBAR-  
RASS ME!

YOU CAN'T  
POSSIBLY  
EXPECT AN  
AMATEUR  
TO MAKE A  
DECENT  
DRESS.

BUT  
IF YOU'RE  
WILLING TO BE A  
LAUGHINGSTOCK,  
THEN I ACCEPT  
THE JOB.

THAT'S AN...  
INTERESTING  
CINDERELLA.

NO MORE  
FRIVOLITIES  
FOR YOU!

MORE  
IMPORTANTLY,  
ONEE-SAMA...  
WOULD YOU  
LIKE SOME  
TEA?



I'M AFRAID THAT'S A CRIME. PLEASE WISH FOR SOMETHING SOFTER, MORE PURE.

BURN THE PALACE DOWN.

ALLOW ME A MOMENT. SORRY.

GENTLE CINDERELLA, FOR SOMEONE AS KIND AS YOU, I WILL GRANT WHATEVER YOU WISH FOR THE REST OF THIS EVENING.

THAT SOUNDS LOVELY.

Pure...



CINDER-ELLA!

HRM... THAT'S MY MOTHER.

I'M GOING TO COME IN HERE ASSUMING YOU'VE FINISHED THE DRESSES!

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

I WISH FOR DELICIOUS YAKINIKU.



CINDER--

EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT.

HE'S AN ANGEL!

Please be quiet!  
Easy on the flash photography!

IF YOU DON'T MIND MY SAYING, THAT WAS A LACKLUSTER INTRODUCTION.

My eyes... the flashes...

I'M... ER...

...YOUR FAIRY... GUARDIAN.



AND  
NOW IT'S  
YOUR TURN,  
CINDERELLA.



MAKE  
YOUR  
WISH.



I  
WOULDN'T  
DARE  
MENTION  
IT.

12  
spotlight



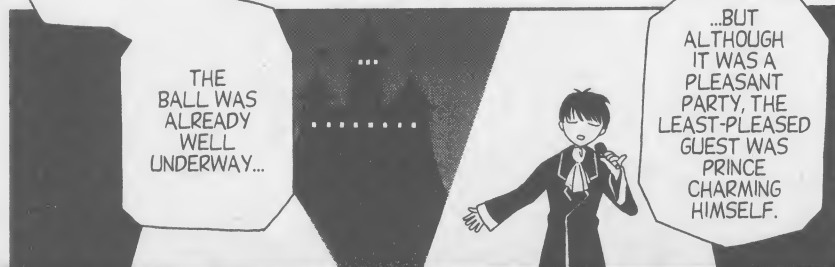
GOOD  
WORK,  
FAIRY  
GUARDIAN.



AND SO,  
LARGELY DECIDED  
ON BY THE FAIRY  
GUARDIAN, CINDER-  
ELLA FOUND HER  
CHANCE TO GO TO  
THE ROYAL BALL.

YOU SHALL  
GO TO THE  
BALL IN A  
PUMPKIN  
CARRIAGE!

YAKINI--



THE  
BALL WAS  
ALREADY  
WELL  
UNDERWAY...

...BUT  
ALTHOUGH  
IT WAS A  
PLEASANT  
PARTY, THE  
LEAST-PLEASED  
GUEST WAS  
PRINCE  
CHARMING  
HIMSELF.



DID YOU  
REALLY  
MAKE  
THESE?!

TH-  
THEY'RE  
ACTUALLY  
FINISHED!

I  
GUESS.

But  
when?..



CINDERELLA-  
SAN!

ABOUT  
THAT...

...WHA?



B-BUT  
WHAT ABOUT  
CINDERELLA-  
SAN?

WELL,  
WHATEVER.  
WE'RE  
CHANGING  
INTO THESE  
AND GOING  
OUT!



SHE'LL  
WATCH  
THE HOUSE  
WHILE  
WE'RE  
AWAY!



I'M  
PLEASED  
THAT YOU  
LIKE MY  
HANDMADE  
DRESSES SO  
MUCH.

THESE  
DRESSES ARE  
BEAUTIFUL!  
YOU'RE SUCH  
A SKILLED  
SEAMSTRESS!

CINDERELLA'S  
A LIAR!

カカカ!! SHOCK





OH...

I-I SEE.

I BEG YOUR PARDON.



PRINCE CHARMING? WOULD YOU DANCE WITH--

NO!

THEN MIGHT YOU BE BOTHERED TO SHARE A DANCE WITH--

--ME? IGNORE HER.

I SAID NO! FIND SOMEBODY ELSE!

PRIN--

I'M NOT DANCING, DAMMIT!



REFUSED TO DANCE WITH THE STEPSISTER...



HE ALSO, OF COURSE, REFUSED TO DANCE WITH THE STEPSISTER.

WAI--



WHAT ARE YOU BROODING ABOUT, SUNSHINE? WE THREW THIS GIANT THING FOR YOU.

NOW GO PICK A LADY.

There are plenty of 'em here.

SHUT UP, WILL YOU? I ALREADY SAID I'M NOT INTERESTED.



I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU, YOU STUPID LUG. AND THIS IS MY THANKS? GO BUY YOURSELF SOME COURTESY!

What was that?

TAKE A TRIP TO THE STORE AND BUY YOURSELF SOME DIGNITY!

NO WONDER YOU'RE A VIRGIN.

DESPITE THE GENTLE PERSUASION OF HIS FELLOW PRINCE, PRINCE CHARMING COULD NOT BE CONVINCED TO DANCE.

That was... something. Yikes.

That was... yikes.

YOU'RE SHAMELESS, YOU INFURIATING SACK OF SKIN!

Nya ha ha!



HEY!  
YOU!

THEY  
HAVE  
YAKINIKU.

OH,  
MY.

NO  
WAY!

AFTER  
FALLING  
INSTANTLY IN  
LOVE WITH  
CINDERELLA'S  
BEAUTY, PRINCE  
CHARMING  
ASKED THE FAIR  
MAIDEN TO  
DANCE.



YES WAY,  
AS PER THE  
NARRATOR.

*Now hurry  
and go.*



GET  
OVER  
HERE...

AND  
DANCE  
WITH  
ME!



WHILE THE  
CHEER OF  
HIS GUESTS  
FILLED THE  
PALACE DANCE  
HALL, PRINCE  
CHARMING  
FELL DEEPER  
INTO DESPAIR.

STOP  
LOOKING  
DEPRESSED  
ONSTAGE.

WHY AM  
I DOING  
THIS...?



Wow!  
THAT  
WOMAN  
IS SO  
BEAUTIFUL!

BLACK!

CINDERELLA'S  
WEARING  
BLACK!

HERE  
WE  
ARE.

THE  
BALL.



NO.

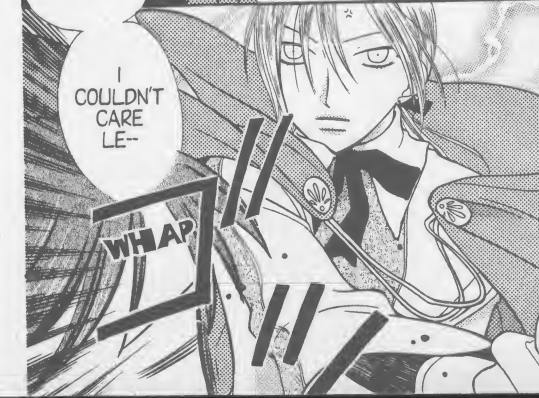
ASK  
HER TO  
DANCE.

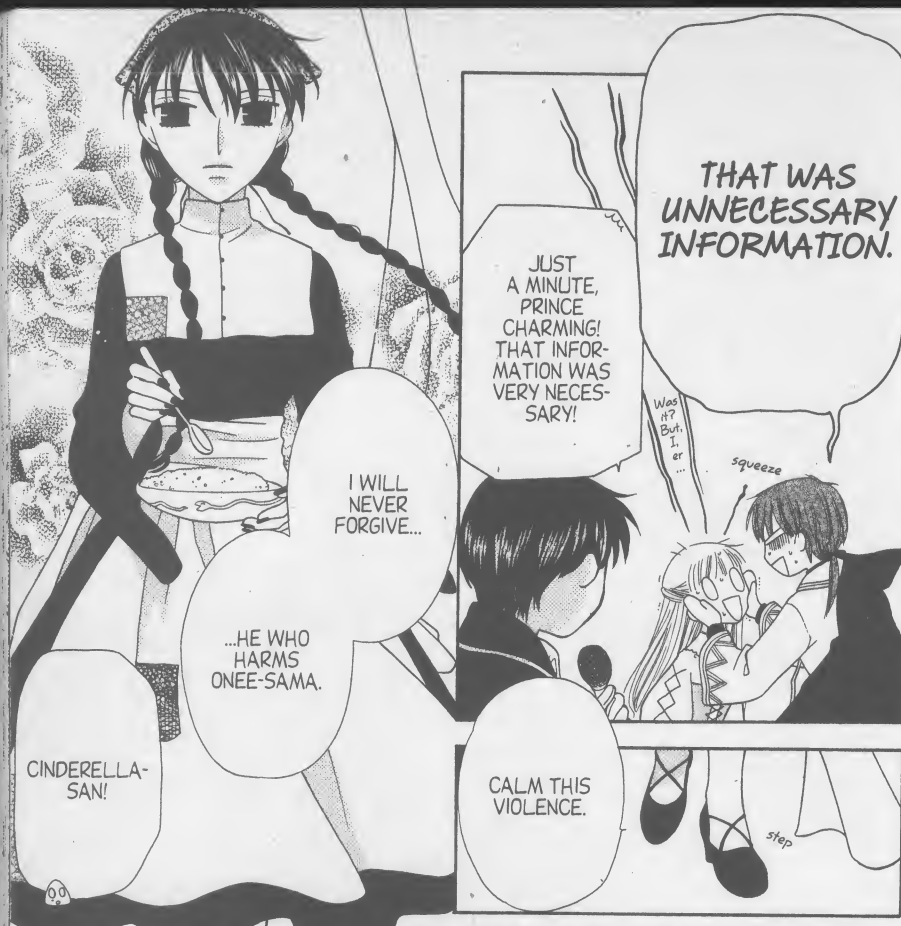
HEY...  
CHECK OUT  
THAT PIECE  
OF TART.

WATCHING  
FOR AN OP-  
PORTUNITY,  
CINDERELLA  
ARRIVED.









I WILL NEVER FORGIVE...

...HE WHO HARMS ONEE-SAMA.

CINDERELLA-SAN!

JUST A MINUTE, PRINCE CHARMING! THAT INFORMATION WAS VERY NECESSARY!

THAT WAS UNNECESSARY INFORMATION.

CALM THIS VIOLENCE.

Was it? But I er...

squeeze

step



THAT'S AN ARROGANT CINDERELLA.

AND SHE'S EATING SOMETHING AGAIN.

I WAS EXPECTING YOU, PRINCE.

THAT SLIPPER IS CERTAINLY THE ONE I LEFT YOU... NOW GIVE IT BACK TO ME.

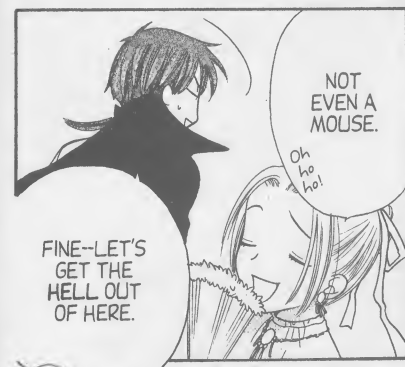


HE TRIED TO FIT THE GLASS SLIPPER ON EVERY GIRL IN TOWN...

...DECIDING THAT THE ONE WHO FIT THE SHOE WAS HIS BELOVED CINDERELLA.

"I WISH I COULD SEE HER," HE THOUGHT SADLY.

I NEVER ONCE WANTED TO SEE HER!



NOT EVEN A MOUSE.

Oh ho ho!

FINE--LET'S GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.



OH!

P-PLEASE WAIT! YOU HAVEN'T YET SEEN CINDERELLA-SAN...



ARE THERE ANY OTHER YOUNG LADIES IN THIS HOUSE?

HE AT LAST CAME TO THE HOME OF CINDERELLA AND HER FAMILY.

I'M AFRAID THAT'S NOT MY SLIPPER.

...AND STOPPING ONLY AT THE MOMENT YOU DIE?

YOU'RE THE ONE WITH THE ULTERIOR MOTIVES.

THEN BE CLEAR, PRINCE. WHY ARE YOU HERE?

TELL ME THIS.

DO YOU PLAN TO LIVE A LIE FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?

LOCKED IN YOUR CASTLE...

...DECEIVING YOURSELF DAILY...

SO WHAT IF I DO?

YOU CAN'T TELL ME THAT WOULD BOTHER ANYONE.



BUT I...NO! THAT'S NOT...

THEN YOU'RE HERE FOR ME? THAT'S RATHER NIGHTMARISH.

THAT'S MORE LIKE HELL THAN A NIGHT-MARE TO ME!

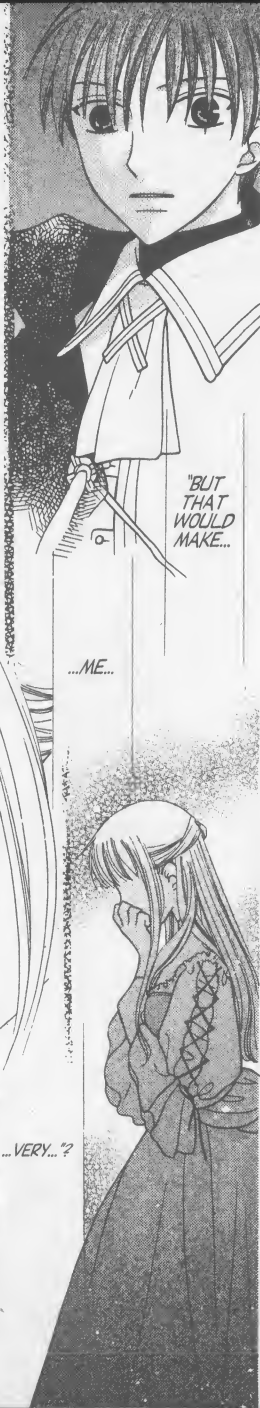
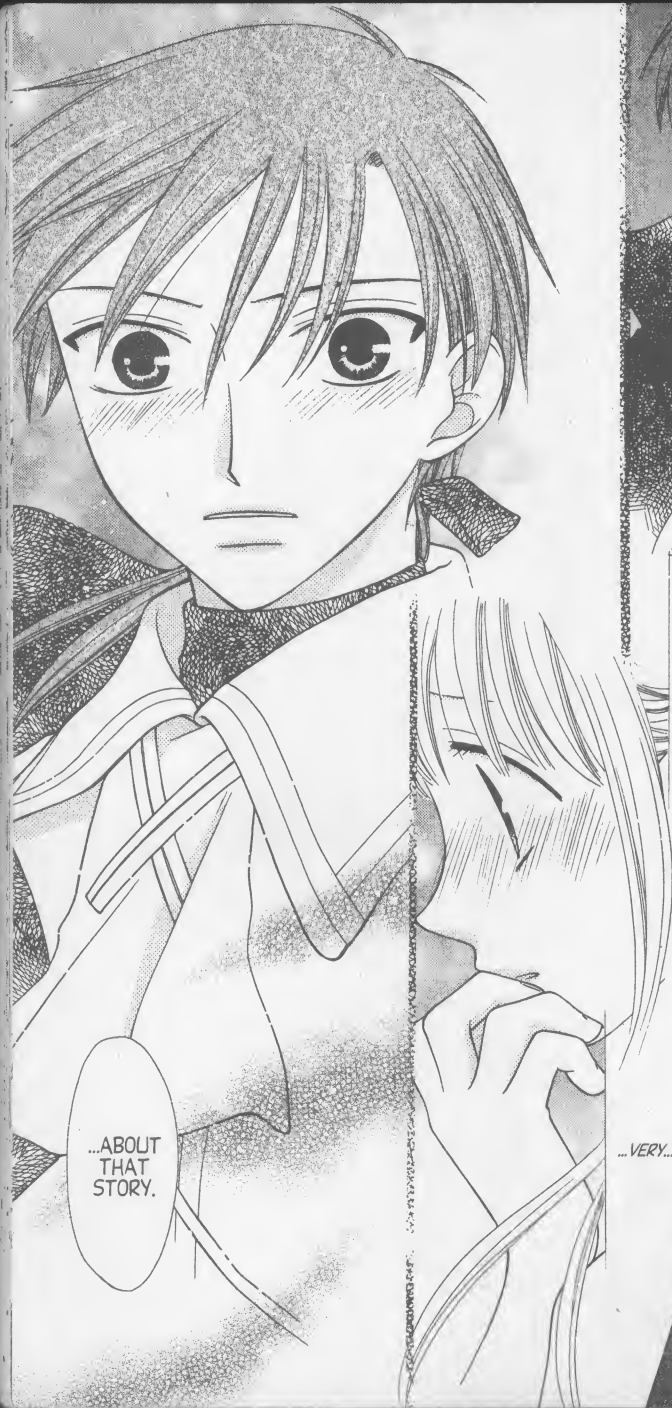
And stop looking like you'd be the one put out!

THAT IS KINDA WHY WE'RE HERE, PRINCE.

WHY WOULD I... SHE'S NOT... ARE YOU STUPID?! OF COURSE NOT!

ARGH!







I ONLY HOPE IT COMES TRUE BY YOUR OWN TWO HANDS.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE GRANTING THE WISH.

IN THAT CASE-PRINCE CHARMING. SUPPORT THEM IN THEIR BUSINESS.

PRINCE CHARMING...

...I WON'T ASK WHAT YOU WISH FOR.



What Wonderful Judgment!

...WHA?

GRAH!



ALTHOUGH I'M NOT YOUR SERVANT, I REALIZE THAT YOU MARRYING THE PRINCE WOULD ONLY END IN HEARTBREAK.

AH... MY LOYAL SERVANT HAS ARRIVED.

KYAAAH!



SHE'LL NEVER LET THAT DIE.

I WANT TO MANAGE A YAKINIKU SHOP WITH ONEE-SAMA.

MEAT...



GYAH!

I COULDN'T HELP BUT OVERHEAR YOU.

Sorry for interrupting, but we have to wrap up.



SO I WILL ASK ONE MORE TIME.

WHAT IS IT YOU TRULY WISH FOR?







I'M KAZUMA SOHMA. THANK YOU FOR HELPING KYO.

AH-I HAVEN'T INTRODUCED MYSELF YET.

MY NAME IS SAKI HANA-JIMA. IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.



SH--

Shishou-san is Hana-chan's type, isn't he?

You're getting a new mommy!

Check it out, Kyon!

If I were to marry, I'd choose a man like that.

...Uh-oh.



KYO-KUN... THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I THINK MY PERFORMANCE TODAY WAS A SUCCESS BECAUSE HE PLAYED OPPOSITE ME.



SHISHOU! WHY'RE YOU... HOW...!

HELLO, KYO. GOOD WORK IN THE PLAY.

YES. GOOD WORK.



I'M GONNA FORGET THIS HAPPENED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Eek!

KYON-CHAN, DON'T TAKE THAT OFF HERE!

MAN.

AM I GLAD THAT'S OVER.

I couldn't breathe in this thing!

I SEE...SO YOU PLAYED OPPOSITE HIM, DID YOU?

I DID INDEED.



Continued  $\rightarrow$

Momiji's Papa lives "outside," but he still comes to see his son every once in a while.

Since the incident with his Mama, Momitchi and Hatori have grown closer; they sympathize with each other, and worry about the other's feelings.

Unlike the other members of the Zodiac, Momiji went to international elementary and middle schools. He's also the member of the Zodiac most comfortable with his spirit possession.

Now matter how much he clings to Tohru, he still never gets in trouble...so I guess, in a way, he's the most successful of the boys.

I remember talking with my editor about how it would've been nice if I could have said that Momiji's song in Chapter 72 was "For Fruits Basket."

I hope that Ritsuko Okazaki-san may be happy in the next world.





MAKE ME!!

I'D LIKE TO SAY HELLO TO TOHRU-SAN.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE I COULD FIND HER?

"BUT THAT WOULD..."

UH...



I SEE.



I-I DUNNO.

IT'S NOT LIKE...

...I KEEP TABS ON WHERE SHE IS ALL THE TIME.



I THOUGHT SHIHAN WOULD BE HAPPY.

IT'S EMBARRASSING!

YOU WOULDN'T WANT YOUR PARENTS TO SEE YOU HERE, EITHER!

For lots of reasons!

THANK YOU.

MOMIJI GOT IT ON TAPE. WE'LL GIVE YOU A COPY.

I CAN NEVER TELL IF YOU'RE TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT WITH ME OR NOT.



LET HIM GO, KYO.

I'M GOING HOME.

I HAD TO SNEAK AWAY TO COME HERE.

...AH.

BUT BEFORE I GO...







Yeek!



BY THE WAY, UO-CHAN--YOU MADE SUCH A WONDERFUL PRINCE!

Y'THINK SO?

You were cure yourself.



sniff  
AH, IT'S JUST ALLERGIES. I WAS ITCHING THROUGH THE WHOLE DAMN PLAY.

WH-WH-WHAT'S WRONG?! ARE YOU SICK?! IS IT A COLD?!

Pollen isn't only a springtime thing, y'know.



COME SEE ME, DAMMIT!



THERE'S NO FRIGGIN' WAY

SHE DOESN'T REALLY...

SHE COULDN'T REALLY MEAN...



I SUPPOSE I'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR ANOTHER DAY, THEN.

GOODBYE.



HUH? BUT I...

HOLD ON A SEC AND I'LL WALK YOU TO THE GATE.

Just lemme go change!



NO WAY.



ONEE-CHAN!...

That voice!



I GUESS SHE REALLY DOES...

...STILL THINK OF KURENO-SAN.

ONEE-CHAN!



"I HAVE NO INTENTION OF SEEING HER."

YEAH?

"I'VE HAD ENOUGH."



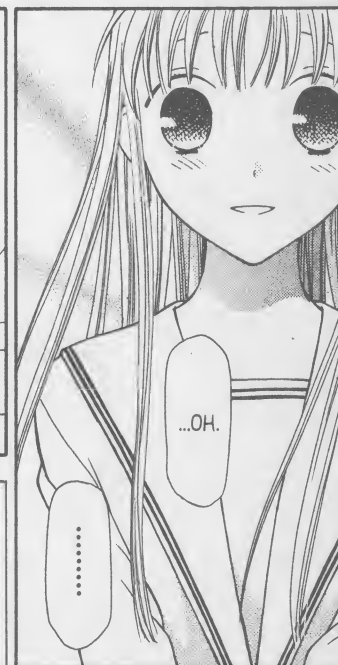
WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS, TOHRU?

UM, UO-CHAN?

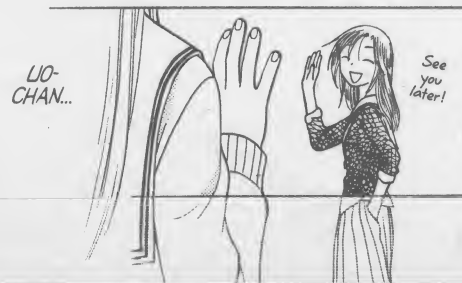


IT SURE IS. I CAN'T WAIT!

THE PLAY YOU'RE GOING TO SEE-IS IT MITO KOLIMON?



...OH.



UO-CHAN...



I'm right?! I really guessed right?! COOL!

It's like a famous detective story!

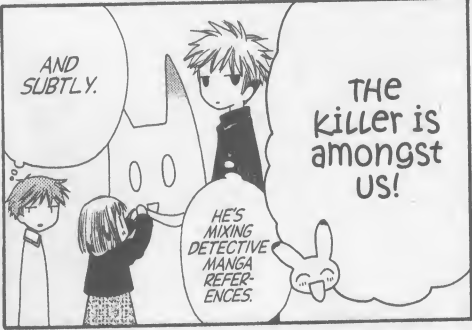
HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?!

EH?



...I REALIZED I SHOULD BE THE ONE TO TAKE HIM A COPY.

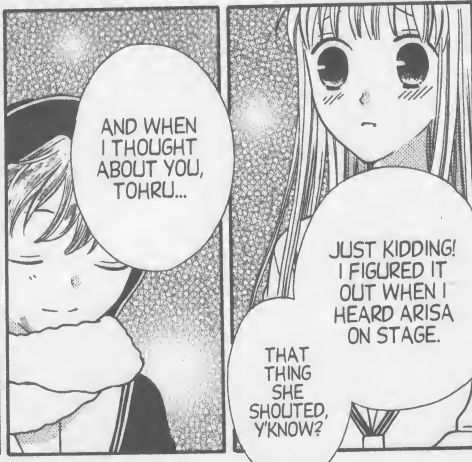
IT MAY TAKE ME A WHILE, BUT MY CHANCES OF GETTING TO HIM ARE A LOT BETTER.



AND SLYTLY.

THE killer is amongst us!

HE'S MIXING DETECTIVE MANGA REFERENCES.



AND WHEN I THOUGHT ABOUT YOU, TOHRU...

JUST KIDDING! I FIGURED IT OUT WHEN I HEARD ARISA ON STAGE.

THAT THING SHE SHOUTED, Y'KNOW?



I RECORDED THE WHOLE THING.

WE CAN ALL WATCH IT AGAIN LATER!

YOU WERE REALLY PRETTY, ONEE-CHAN.

I'M SO GLAD YOU LIKED IT!

EVEN KISA-SAN AND HIRO-SAN CAME...OH, I'M SO HAPPY!

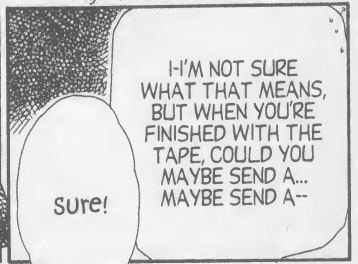


YOU WANT ME TO GIVE ONE TO KURENO, RIGHT?



NOPE! AND I CAN PUT IT ON DVD!

DO YOU NEED THAT MACHINE TO WATCH THE TAPE?



Sure!

I-I'M NOT SURE WHAT THAT MEANS, BUT WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED WITH THE TAPE, COULD YOU MAYBE SEND A... MAYBE SEND A--





YOU,  
TOO,  
HIRO.

HUH?

YOU'RE  
CUTE, SO BE  
CAREFUL.

HEY!  
WHAT'S  
THAT  
SUPPOSED  
TO MEAN?!



BE  
CAREFUL  
FOR HER.

I WILL  
DO MY  
VERY  
BEST!



BUT I'M  
STARTING  
TO THINK...



...THAT  
KINDNESS  
IS WHAT  
MADE RIN  
SO SAD.



EVEN IF  
WE DON'T  
NEED IT.



CRIPES,  
HARU-NII.

YOU REALLY  
ARE NICE TO  
EVERYBODY.



...MOMIJI.

LEAVE  
IT TO  
ME!

Yeah?



Of  
course!

THEN  
IF NOBODY  
MINDS, MAY I  
SHOW THESE  
TWO AROUND?

KISA.



IT'S  
ALMOST  
OUR SHIFT.

OH  
NO!  
I'M SORRY;  
WE HAVE TO  
GO BACK TO  
OUR CLASS!



"IF YOU'RE OUT PATROLLING, PLEASE DRAG OUR DELINQUENTS BACK HERE!"

WOULD YOU MIND SHUTTING YOUR MOUTH FOR THIRTY FREAKING SECONDS?!

I'm trying to make a report!

Kimi would like to be taken out to tea later.

I'm sure if I can't, someone else will invite you, Kimi.

NAO'S IN AN EVEN WORSE MOOD THAN USUAL TODAY.

Must be all the stress.

Why are you so angry?

Naon-chan

walk walk

HELLO IN THERE!

I TOLD YOU TO SPEAK UP!

WHAT ARE YOU, DEAF?

MA...

SLAP!

Student Council Room

GOOD WORK, EVERYBODY.

ABOUT ISUZU-ONEE-CHAN.

DO YOU REALLY ...

Hey, hey!

...BUT THE V.P. TOOK CARE OF ALL THAT.

HOW DID IT GO? DID PEOPLE LIKE IT? WAS IT FUN?!

BUT THEN--

BUT THEN HE DIDN'T COME BACK, AND KURAGI WENT MISSING.

Kimi wants to wear a princess dress! Would 2-D lend one out?

EH-- SOMEBODY COMPLAINED ABOUT THE NOISE LEVEL.

DID I MISS ANYTHING?

THEN SOME IDIOT STARTED A FIGHT.

GOOD WORK IN THE PLAY!

Kimi's so sad she had to miss it!

Yun-Yun!





ANYWAY, IF SOMEONE TALKS TRASH, YOU CAN JUST TRASH THEM BACK.



CLAMMING UP IN A CORNER MAKES THE THING HALF YOUR FAULT.

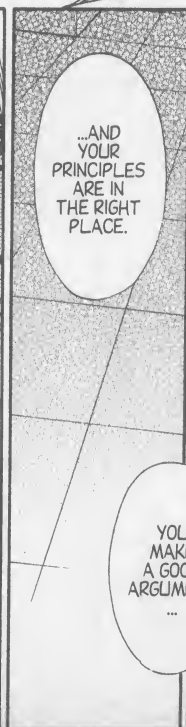


...IT'D BE A LOT MORE POLITE TO LEAVE HER ALONE COMPLETELY.

IF YOU'RE NOT PLANNING TO BE NICE TO OR TO COMFORT A GIRL ALL THE TIME...



THERE ARE PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO GET CRUSHED BY THAT LOGIC.



...AND YOUR PRINCIPLES ARE IN THE RIGHT PLACE.



...FINE.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

YOU MAKE A GOOD ARGUMENT



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHAT"? I'M ON PATROL.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

O-OW!



I CAN EAT WHILE I PATROL.

...WHILE EATING YAKISOBA?

*This stuff is really good!*



WE'VE DISCOVERED THE SCENE OF THE BULLYING!

OR HAVE WE?



I'M PRETTY SURE THOSE GIRLS ARE YOUR FANS.

BESIDES, YUN-YUN. THEY'RE FIGHTING OVER YOU.

What?!



THEN ALL THE MORE REASON.

*Get your leg out of the way!*

LOOK, YOU.



JUST THINK FOR A SECOND. A MAN GETTING INVOLVED IN A WOMAN'S FIGHT JUST PUTS GAS ON THE FIRE.

*Hold your horses.*

ANYWAY, WE HAVE TO STOP THIS.

YOU'RE BEING TOTALLY SELFISH; APOLOGIZE!

IT'S A BIG PROBLEM!

IS THAT A PROBLEM?

THE RESIDENT ISN'T AT ALL LIKE A PRINCE.

THAT'S NOT AN APOLOGY!

I'M SORRY.

YOU KNOW HER DESTRUCTION THING?

THIS GIRL IS SO WEIRD!

I THINK SHE'S BEING HIT ENOUGH VERBALLY.

-YEAH--SHE COMPLETELY TRASHED THE STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM EARLIER.

WHAT, DO YOU LIKE YUKI?

You're probably just jealous.

WELL... YES.

I SAID THAT.

IT'S HOW I SEE THINGS.

GOOD CALL THERE.

Oh.

...THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR A SOCIAL DEBATE.

STILL...



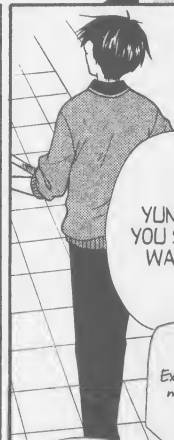
YOU SAID YUKI ISN'T A PRINCE!

HANG ON A SECOND! DON'T YOU SQUIRM OUT OF THIS!

WE HEARD YOU, FREAK.



"Stand watch?"



I GUESS I'D BETTER COME UP WITH A PLAN, HUH?

YUN-YUN, YOU STAND WATCH.

Excuse me?

By the way,

IF THEY START HITTING EACH OTHER, JUMP ON IN THERE AND BREAK IT UP.

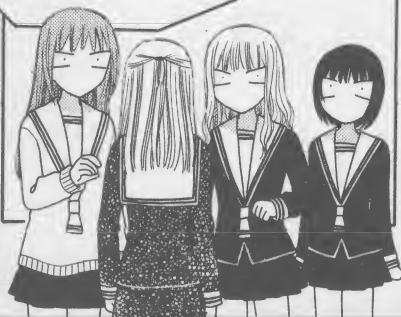




BUT HE  
STILL SEEMS  
LONELY AND  
SAD TO ME.

STARTING AT  
THREE O'CLOCK  
TODAY, THERE WILL  
BE A COMMEMORA-  
TIVE PHOTO SHOOT  
WITH THE ASB  
PRESIDENT IN FRONT  
OF THE STUDENT  
COUNCIL ROOM.

WOULD YOU LIKE A  
PHOTO WITH THE  
PRESIDENT TO COM-  
MEMORATE TODAY?  
WE HOPE FOR AS  
MANY PEOPLE AS IS  
HUMANLY POSSIBLE  
TO PARTICIPATE.



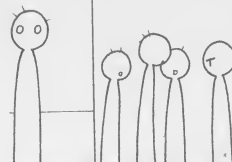
WHA...

HEY!

DON'T YOU  
DARE TALK  
LIKE YOU  
KNOW  
EVERYTHING!



AND  
STOP ACTING  
LIKE YOU'RE  
SMARTER  
THAN  
EVERYONE--



...HE'S A  
NATURAL.

MM.



I'M A  
WHAT?



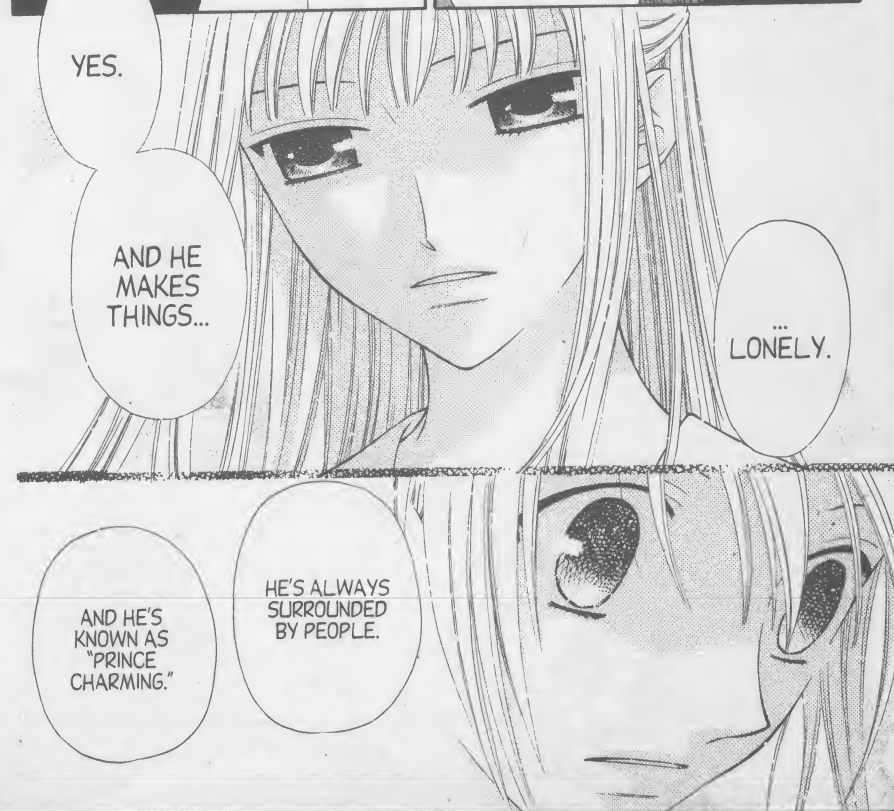
"LIKE"  
HIM?

WE'RE  
ASKING  
WHAT YOU  
THINK OF  
YUKI!

DON'T  
PLAY  
STUPID,  
STUPID!

YES.

AND HE  
MAKES  
THINGS...



...  
LONELY.

AND HE'S  
KNOWN AS  
"PRINCE  
CHARMING."

HE'S ALWAYS  
SURROUNDED  
BY PEOPLE.







ER...



HMM.



KYO-KUN!  
GOOD WORK  
TODAY!

...WHAT  
ARE YOU  
CARRYING?

KISA-SAN  
AND HIRO-SAN  
ARE HERE--  
I'M BRINGING  
THEM SOME  
FOOD.  
*Because  
it's so  
crowded  
and dan-  
gerous!*

SHISHOU  
WAS HERE,  
BY THE  
WAY.

*Here  
told  
him  
about  
it. He  
already  
left,  
though.*

*Shishou-  
san?! He  
came to see  
you?!*

*Gimme  
those.*

THIS IS  
FUN, ISN'T  
IT? WHAT  
A LOVELY  
CULTURAL  
FESTIVAL!

*Um...*

I GUESS.  
I, UH...  
ALREADY  
BLEW  
OFF SOME  
STEAM.

ARE YOU  
ENJOYING  
YOURSELF,  
KYO-KUN?

NO  
WAY.



PAT

You're a  
princess.



THESE  
FEEL-  
INGS...

I'M SORRY--  
I'LL SHUT UP,  
PRINCESS!

O  
w  
w  
w  
!



*Gasps!*

TOHRU?

NO  
WAY.

THEY  
SPREAD  
LIKE  
RIP-  
PLES.

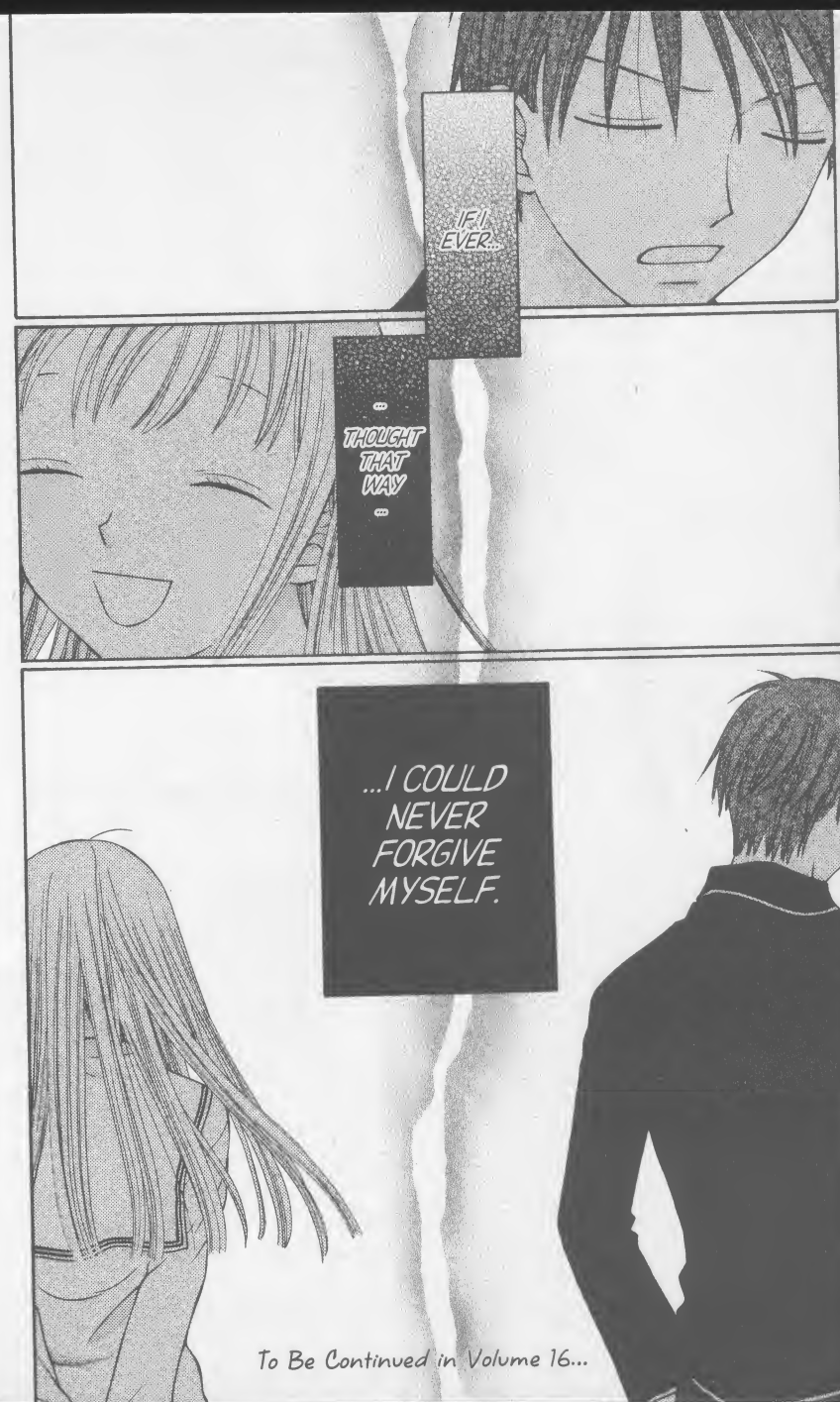
Next time in...



### The Curse Knows No Bounds...

The world's best shojo manga opens a new chapter in the Sohma family's story. Tragedy continues to smother the Sohmas—and it seems to be spreading to those souls unlucky enough to be connected to this cursed family. It seems that Kyo met Tohru's mother in the past. His memory involves Tohru's birth...and the sad events that shortly followed. Is she ready to hear the truth about her mother and father? Meanwhile, Yuki announces that he's going to take responsibility for his own problems...instead of blaming everyone else. But how will Akito react to Yuki's declaration?

Fruits Basket Volume 16  
Available April 2007





Tia Ramirez  
Tijeras, NM

Tohru's bedroom looks  
fantastically decorated.  
Tia! I absolutely love all  
the *Furuba* merchandise!



Riku  
Age 13  
Northridge, CA

How adorable does Tohru look  
in this sketch? Nice work, Riku!



# Fans Basket

We meet again, loyal *Furuba* readers. I think we have a particularly impressive Fans Basket section for Volume 15. I am continually impressed by the fan mail you all send. And it just breaks my heart that I won't be able to print it all. We just don't have enough pages left in the series! Lately, I've been getting a lot of jewelry for Takaya-san. This might shock some of you, but I've never even met Takaya-san. Rest assured, though, we've been sending some of your fan mail to Japan! I can't promise you'll get a response, though. But I do know this: Takaya-san is staggered by how many fans she has worldwide!

-Paul Morrissey, Editor

Margit Perala  
Age 19  
Finland

Whoa! Margit is from Finland!  
That's so cool. I wonder how  
many people read *Fruits Basket*  
in Finland. I really like your  
art style, Margit. It's very  
emo/indie rock.



Margit  
Perala  
-2006

# Fruits Basket



Sheila Syroka  
Age 18  
Erie, PA

It's *Furuba* Babies!  
They all look so cuddly  
and adorable!

# Fruit Basket



Stephanie Thomas  
Age 12  
Columbia, MD

Tohru should wear  
gingham more often! And  
take a close look at her  
over mitts—they totally  
match her outfit!

Chelsea Hensbergen  
Macomb, MI

More plush toys!  
Seriously, wouldn't  
you all buy *Furuba*  
plush toys if you  
could get your  
hands on them?  
This sketch made me  
laugh, Chelsea. My  
favorite part: Ritsu  
freaking out in the  
corner!



Maggie McGrattan  
Age 22  
Paris, Ontario  
Canada

Hey, Maggie. I haven't  
played *Star Ocean*.  
(I'm too busy reading  
fan mail to play  
videogames.) But it's a  
total blast seeing our  
*Fruits Basket* characters  
cosplaying in these  
awesome outfits.



Do you want to share your love for *Fruits Basket* with fans around the world? "Fans Basket" is taking submissions of fan art, poetry, cosplay photos, or any other Furuba fun you'd like to share!

How to submit:

1) Send your work via regular mail (NOT e-mail) to:

"Fans Basket"  
c/o TOKYOPOP  
5900 Wilshire Blvd.  
Suite 2000  
Los Angeles, CA 90036

2) All work should be in black-and-white and no larger than 8.5" x 11". (And try not to fold it too many times!)

3) Anything you send will not be returned. If you want to keep your original, it's fine to send us a copy.

4) Please include your full name, age, city and state for us to print with your work. If you'd rather us use a pen name, please include that, too.

5) IMPORTANT: If you're under the age of 18, you must have your parent's permission in order for us to print your work. Any submissions without a signed note of parental consent cannot be used.

6) For full details, please check out our website: <http://www.tokyopop.com/aboutus/fanart.php>

Disclaimer: Anything you send to us becomes the exclusive property of TOKYOPOP Inc. and, as we said before, will not be returned to you. We will have the right to print, reproduce, distribute, or modify the artwork for use in future volumes of *Fruits Basket* or on the web royalty-free.

Alexandra Minazuki  
Age 19  
Orem, UT

Hey, Alexandra. I bet there aren't a lot of Minazukis in Utah! This is a great piece of art. I love the fact that you used your own unique style. I think you perfectly captured the essence of Momiji, by the way!



Rosalie Meli Tam  
Age 18  
Silver Spring, MD

Lovely work, Rosalie. This piece of art actually tells a story... I wonder why that photo was torn in half... And when did it get taped back together? In any case, I hope Rin and Hatsuharu can find happiness together!



Shelley Davis  
Age 17  
St. Anthony, ID

Shelly, your art is terrific! I'm amazed at the way you used your pen to mimic tones. And the little splash of water on Kyo's tail is priceless! Keep drawing, and good luck!

Claire Ramirez  
Age 16  
San Antonio, TX

Hey, Claire. Your envelope art is absolutely gorgeous! I wonder if the mail carrier was as impressed as I was.

